



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**Contact: Cynthia Milledge**  
**(334) 399-7340**

### **Selma City Schools Receives \$1.7 Million in State Funding for Tornado Relief**

**Selma-**Today, Alabama State Representative Prince Chestnut donated \$1.7 million to the Selma City School System to aid recovery from the devastating tornado that hit the historical city on January 12, 2023. During a news conference at the district’s central office, Chestnut presented the Selma City School Board members and Superintendent Dr. Zickeyous Byrd with the check. “We are grateful for this assistance from the state,” says Superintendent Byrd. “I want to especially thank Representative Chestnut for his extraordinary leadership, dedication, and commitment to making this a reality for Selma City Schools. He is one of the best and most hard-working representatives I have ever had the pleasure of working with.”

The EF-2 tornado damaged the School of Discovery Preparatory Academy (formerly Knox Elementary) and forced the closure of the building for the remainder of the 2022-2023 school year. Nearly 240 of the school systems students were displaced by the storm. As the children and their families continue the long process of putting their lives back together, the supplies and support needed will change. “The students won’t ever forget it,” says Chestnut. “They will remember the tragedy, but hopefully, they will remember the response and how their community came together.”

“Our system has made great progress in the months since the tornado, but it has been challenging. These funds will allow the continued recovery and rebuilding that we have started,” says Superintendent Byrd.

Several state officials were present with Representative Chestnut, including Minority Leader Anthony Daniels, Minority Caucus Chair Barbara Drummond, Representative Kelvin Lawrence, as well as local officials from the Selma area, including Selma Mayor James Perkins. “I’m thankful for the work of my fellow committee members and the Alabama Legislature who saw the need and helped us address it. A special thanks to Leadership in the House and Senate, including Speaker Nathaniel Ledbetter, Chairman Danny Garrett, Minority Leader Daniels, and Minority Caucus Chair Drummond.”

Chestnut has served District 67 since April 18, 2017. He is a graduate of Selma’s City Schools.