



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**SHORT the Squirrel, Alabama's Literacy Mascot**

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**SHORT THE SQUIRREL PARTNERS WITH ALABAMA SECURITIES COMMISSION TO SHARE  
FINANCIAL LITERACY STATEWIDE**

**DAPHNE, Ala.** — Across the U.S., April is financial literacy month. Alabama's literacy mascot, SHORT the Squirrel, has partnered with the Alabama Securities Commission and Director Joseph Borg to combine literacy with financial literacy in a fun statewide initiative. The ASC also provides presentations, free information, and access to curricula for financial literacy education for adults. In *SHORT's Money Tree*, emerging readers figure out how many acorns SHORT needs to get everything on his wish list at the annual book fair.

Financial literacy teaches students the fundamentals of money management. This knowledge helps to develop strong money habits whether spending, saving, or budgeting. Having financial literacy at a young age, aids in creating strong financial planning and developing critical thinking skills.

Approximately 24,000 of Alabama's second graders (40%) will receive *SHORT's Money Tree* this April as SHORT the Squirrel has been chosen as the grant recipient of the ITP (Investor Protection Trust) grant. The IPT, based in Washington D.C., is a nonprofit organization devoted to independent and unbiased investor education, research, and support of investor protection efforts. This grant will allow the SHORT team to share how financial literacy concepts and reading build a strong future.

**About SHORT the Squirrel**

SHORT the Squirrel is a literacy-focused non-profit located in Daphne, Alabama. The organization was founded in 2020 after McRae Young, a new Mobile County Assistant District Attorney, saw young children spending large, unoccupied blocks of time in the courtroom. Her mother, Monica Anderson Young, and Dr. Dee Dupree Bennett created SHORT the Squirrel as a mechanism to fill the gap with “edutainment” and are establishing SHORT as literacy’s identifiable, lovable mascot for children. The non-profit believes “waiting time is reading time,” and the inaugural title *SHORT in Court*, funded by the Alabama Law Foundation, is available in all 67 Alabama courtrooms. SHORT the Squirrel has been named as Alabama’s official literacy mascot by Governor Kay Ivey. For more information, please visit <https://shortthesquirrel.com/> or contact [contact@shortthesquirrel.com](mailto:contact@shortthesquirrel.com).

