



The Alabama Association of School Boards helps local education leaders improve student achievement through advocacy for Alabama's public school students; leadership development and board training; and resources for effective education governance. AASB's more than 800 members represent every public school board in the state. This agenda represents their collective voice.

# Give us a hand

**2010 Alabama Legislative Session:** Jan. 12-April 26

Visit [AlabamaSchoolBoards.org/Lobbying.htm](http://AlabamaSchoolBoards.org/Lobbying.htm) for a list of legislators and committees.

## Contacts

- **Alabama House Switchboard:** 334-242-7600
- **Alabama Senate Switchboard:** 334-242-7800
- **Governor's Office:** 334-242-9100
- **State Department of Education:** 334-242-9700

## About Us

■ **AASB:** The Alabama Association of School Boards represents all of the state's public local school boards. Since 1949, AASB has served education leaders and the interests of local lay control of public education. The association's mission is to develop excellent school board leaders through quality training, advocacy and services.

■ **Leader to Leader:** Legislators can make decisions best when they have the right information. Who better to keep them in touch and informed about schools than local school board members? Board members in the Leader to Leader network are AASB's grassroots advocates for your schools and schoolchildren. They serve as a reliable source of education policy information for legislators. Lobbyists who represent statewide interests are helpful, but school board members *are* lawmakers' constituency. That is what makes Leader to Leader such an effective, powerful program.

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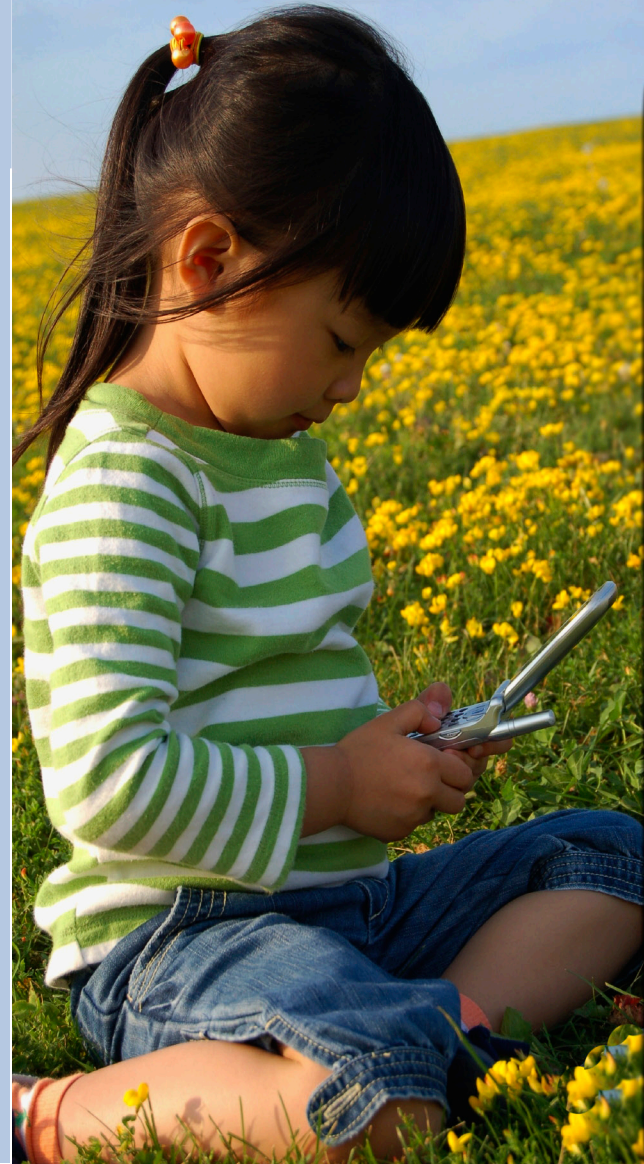
# DEAR LEGISLATOR...

## 2010 Advocacy Agenda

Help us make the future brighter for all children...

We understand legislative leaders want Alabama to deliver on its promise of a brighter future. We're here to help. Local school boards work alongside you to accomplish the public's highest priority – educating our children.

**Alabama Association of School Boards**



**Support** /

**Close the Tenure Loophole**

- A critical flaw creates a loophole that allows criminals to remain on the payroll as education employees
- A simple fix closes the loophole
- Until tenure reform is on the table, this technical change will help restore the public's faith in public education



**Adopt Education Trust Fund Budget Solutions**

- FY2011 requires \$800 million of additional cuts
- Fair distribution of costs and benefit evaluation aligned with available funds for employee fringe benefits (PEEHIP and TRS)
- Allow for maximum local flexibility in spending ETF dollars, including school calendars/schedules and placement of teacher units
- Use of conservative revenue estimates in appropriating ETF dollars to minimize impact of economic volatility on local school systems

**Oppose** /

**Threats to Local Decision-Making**

Each year, a number of bills are filed to chip away local school system autonomy.

Communities strongly support their local schools and are strongly against legislation that takes away local ability to make decisions, such as:

- Statewide school start date mandates
- Access to extracurricular activities by non-public students



“The bill to set the school calendar has been defeated. The bill to allow private school students to participate in sports and other extracurricular activities at public schools has also been defeated. And, I think rightfully so.”

— Sen. Lowell Barron, chair Alabama Senate Rules Committee



**The Road Ahead**

**Enact a Stable Budgeting Process**

AASB supports a stable budgeting process such as the Rolling Reserve Budget.

Proration in 2009 and 2010 would have been avoided if such a process were in place.

Public education's future will rely on state leaders' willingness to adopt a budgeting method to protect students.

**Strengthen School Governance**

Alabama is one of only three states that still allows the election of superintendents. Removing electoral politics from school management and ensuring a best-practice governance structure would provide stronger leadership for Alabama's schools.

**Change the Conversation**

Alabama's children deserve adequate funding for their education. The conversation must include equitable per pupil funding, and the state must refocus on the Foundation Program.