

School Board Member Academy Core Course

Leadership to Create the Optimal Learning Environment

How does the right learning environment lead to student success? How can boards play a role in creating a culture where all kids can achieve at high levels? Students need a welcoming, supportive, positive and diverse climate in order to thrive. The right teacher, resources and atmosphere play an integral part in how children learn. Discover how culture, climate and environment are connected to student achievement.

You will learn:

- ▶ **The board's role in creating an optimal learning environment for all students**
- ▶ **To create a safe environment for students**
- ▶ **To create a culture for quality teaching and learning.**
- ▶ **To use technology to optimize learning**

Optimal Beginning—Set your Plan for Success

The conference kicks off with a facilitated discussion about gaps in education and how to prepare our children for the optimal learning environment. Don't miss *Get Results by Focusing on Teaching and Learning* by Education Trust President Kati Haycock, one of the nation's leading child advocates in the field of Education. Discover the importance of creating a focus for teaching and learning and how that the right environment enhances student achievement.

Panel of Optimism—Hear from Students

Learn first-hand from a fishbowl of educators and students what they need from the board to meet their changing needs. Don't miss *Optimal Learning Environment: Student and Teacher Perspectives* with students and teachers from George Hall Elementary School of Mobile County, a high poverty, high diversity and high achieving *Torch Bearer School*. Cathy Gassenheimer, A+ Education Partnership Managing Director, will help facilitate the discussion.

Opportunist Breakouts

Dive into a series of breakout sessions—each presented twice—meant to help create a culture where all students can learn.

- *The Board's Role in Creating a Culture of Quality Teaching and Learning* takes a close look at what Cullman City and Perry County Boards of Education are doing to improve the beliefs and conditions that lead to an optimal learning environment.
- *Create a Safe Environment for Students* shares stories on how positive behavior support can make your schools a safer place to learn and work.
- *Using Technology to Optimize Learning* showcases how nationally recognized Madison City incorporates technology into the classroom for optimal 21st century learning.

Optimal Future—Diversity and Financial Support

Why is diversity in the classroom key to the success of students? How can we move ahead in tough times while focusing on optimal learning? Assistant State Superintendent Craig Pouncey offers a financial update from the state Department of Education in addition to tips on how to stay focused on student achievement, even in lean times. State Board Member Ella Bell of the Alabama State University Dropout Prevention Center explains why a diverse environment is best for kids.

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School Board Member Academy Core Course

Leadership to
Create the Optimal
Learning Environment

October 25–26
Renaissance Hotel
at the Convention Center
Montgomery



ALABAMA ASSOCIATION
OF
SCHOOL BOARDS
Leaders for Learning

School Board Member Academy Core Course

Leadership to Create the Optimal Learning Environment

*Making Schools a Great Place
To Learn and Work*



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EARLY BIRD WORKSHOP

Planning for Pre-K: Tools for School Boards

Sunday, October 25, 2009 • 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

School readiness is the best foundation we can give young people to spearhead a successful school career. Hear from schools that have incorporated pre-kindergarten into their school systems and learn from their successes and challenges.



Registered workshop attendees will receive The Center for Public Education's "Planning for Pre-kindergarten Toolkit for School Boards." The toolkit includes sections on how to start a pre-K program, community engagement, governance, quality indicators, the school board's role and more.

Registration is \$65 for members and \$130 for non-members.



Don't miss your chance to hear Kati Haycock, one of the nation's leading child advocates in the field of education. She opens the **Leadership to Create the Optimal Learning Environment Conference** with proven data that will show trends and gaps in student

achievement. Kati will demonstrate how the data is connected to the learning environment and the success of all children. Join us at 3:30 p.m. on Oct. 25 for her session, **Get Results by Focusing on Teaching and Learning.**

SCHEDULE

Sunday, October 25

- 11:00 a.m. Registration Opens
1:00 p.m. Early Bird Workshop: *Planning for Pre-kindergarten: Tools for School Boards*
3:00 p.m. Early Bird Workshop Adjourns
3:30 p.m. General Session *Welcome*
Get Results by Focusing on Teaching and Learning
Kati Haycock, Education Trust President
5:00 p.m. Break
5:30 p.m. *Optimal Learning Environment: Student and Teacher Perspectives*
Cathy Gassenheimer, A+ Education Partnership Managing Director;
Students and teachers from *George Hall* Elementary School, Mobile County
7:00 p.m. Conference Recesses

Monday, October 26

- 7:00 a.m. Registration Opens
7:00 a.m. Breakfast
8:00 a.m. Breakout Sessions
1. *The Board's Role in Creating a Culture of Quality Teaching and Learning*—Cullman City and Perry County Boards of Education
2. *Create a Safe Environment for Schools*—Southern Poverty Law Center
3. *Using Technology to Optimize Learning*—Madison City Schools
9:10 a.m. Breakout Sessions repeat
10:10 a.m. Break
10:30 a.m. *Keep Optimal Learning First, Even in Lean Times*—Craig Pouncey, Assistant Superintendent, State Department of Education
11:00 a.m. General Session
Diversity in the Optimal Learning and Working Environment—Ella Bell, State Board of Education, ASU Dropout Center
11:30 a.m. Adjourn

ACADEMY CREDIT

Earn six credit hours in AASB's School Board Member Academy and satisfy the academy's requirement for the Leadership to Create the Optimal Learning Environment core course. If you have already earned your conference core credit, you can still accumulate hours that apply to other academy levels.

ACCOMMODATIONS

Located in downtown Montgomery, The Renaissance Montgomery Hotel & Convention Center features a performing arts center, convention center and convenient parking. The discounted room rate is \$123 per night (plus tax) for up to two guests per standard room. Housing reservations should be made no later than 5 p.m. on Sept. 25 and be guaranteed with one night's deposit. If all rooms blocked for the conference are reserved before Sept. 25, the hotel may charge a higher rate. If you are quoted a higher rate before Sept. 25, contact AASB to verify that the room block is sold out.

AASB HOUSING RESERVATIONS

Register Online: Reservations should be made directly with the hotel by registering online using the following address, <http://bit.ly/ujGJz>

Or by calling 800/468-3571 or 334/481-5000. Be sure to mention AASB to receive the reduced room rate.

Hotel cancellation clause: *Deposits are refundable on reservations cancelled more than 24 hours prior to arrival. Check-in begins at 4 p.m. and check-out is noon.*

Conference Cancellation Clause: *Conference registrants must be cancelled by Oct. 20. After that date, the full registration fee will be charged.*

NOTE: *You must register both with The Renaissance Montgomery Hotel (by Sept. 25) and with AASB (by Oct. 20).*

Conference Dress

AASB encourages casual dress.

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER ACADEMY CORE COURSE

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

Leadership to Create the Optimal Learning Environment

October 25–26, 2009
Renaissance Hotel and Convention Center
Montgomery

Name _____

First Name for Badge _____

_____ School Board

E-mail Address _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State __ Zip Code _____

Classification (check one):

- Board President Board Member
 Superintendent Associate Member
 Attorney Board Secretary
 Sustaining Member School System Staff
 Other _____

Pre-registration is \$125 for members; \$250 for non-members. On-site registration is \$135 for members and \$260 for non-members.

Additional breakfast tickets may be purchased on-site for \$30.

(check one): Payment enclosed
 Bill the board

Do you need special assistance with a disability during this conference? If so, please attach a description.

4 Easy Ways to Register

- Visit www.AlabamaSchoolBoards.org by October 20
- Send form and payment to:
Alabama Association of School Boards
P.O. Drawer 230488
Montgomery, AL 36123-0488
- Fax the registration form to 334/270-0000
- Call 800/562-0601