

About the Academy

AASB's award-winning School Board Member Academy provides training and information to help you strengthen your leadership and boardmanship skills. This ongoing series of programs teaches you how to fulfill your primary duty as a board: governing in ways that improve student learning.

As a school board member, you are automatically enrolled in the Academy, and you earn credit hours each time you attend an AASB-sponsored training.

We have designed the Academy to accommodate your hectic schedule. Thus, most statewide conferences overlap weekends to reduce time away from family and work. We also work to minimize your travel by offering training through online courses, regional meetings in AASB's nine districts, webinars, drive-in workshops and on-site whole board training.

Core Academy Courses

The heart of the Academy is its core courses. Each of the eight courses focuses on an important area of school board governance and provides detailed information about what the board should know and examples of best practices.

The courses are:

- Effective Board and Relationships Orientation
- Leadership for Academic Achievement
- Leadership for Community Engagement
- Leadership for Creating Positive Climate & Culture
- Leadership for Developing a Highly Effective Staff
- Leadership for Financial Accountability
- Leadership for Policy and Planning
- Roles & Responsibilities Orientation

Academy Achievements

As you attend AASB-sponsored training, you earn credit hours toward reaching a new level in the Academy. To complete all four levels, you must complete all eight training courses and earn at least 100 hours (see below).

The training year runs from July 1 to June 30. Those reaching new levels are recognized at AASB events and/or at local board meetings. After you complete all of the cores, you can continue your training and attain the distinction of Master School Board Member and an opportunity to be added to the Master Honor Roll.



Academy Levels

Level I - 25 Academy hours

Level II - 50 Academy hours

Level III - 75 Academy hours

Level IV - 100 Academy hours and all eight core courses. Receive a plaque.

Master - Level IV plus 15 additional Academy hours, including one additional core course. Receive a plaque that can be updated with a year-plate for each year Master is earned.

Master Honor Roll - If you earn five consecutive Master levels and participate in an AASB-facilitated Poverty Simulation as well as an AASB Advocacy Day, you join the Master Honor Roll. You receive a commemorative name badge and an Honor Roll plate for your Master's plaque.

ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES
ORIENTATION



ALABAMA
ASSOCIATION OF
SCHOOL BOARDS

ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES ORIENTATION

Friday, Jan. 10



Schedule

7:30 a.m. Registration Opens

8 a.m. Welcome
Sally Smith, J.D.

8:45 a.m. Icebreaker

9:05 a.m. 6 Standards for School Boards
Susan Salter

10:05 a.m. Break

10:15 a.m. Open Meetings & Open Records
Sally Smith

11:15 a.m. Effective Fiscal Governance
Kim McPherson

12:30 p.m. Lunch

1 p.m. Effective Board Meetings
Susan Salter

1:45 p.m. Ethics 101 *
Sally Smith, J.D.

**meets state mandate for ethics training.*

2:45 p.m. Break

3 p.m. Personnel & Other Legal Issues
Jayne H. Williams, Esq.

4:15 p.m. Recap,
Sally Smith, J.D.

4:30 p.m. Adjourn

Government Act Requirements

The School Board Governance Act requires school board members to earn six hours of training annually. Two of those hours must be with your board-superintendent team (called Whole Board Training). Virtually all AASB-sponsored trainings count toward your annual four-hour individual training requirement.

Board members also must complete at least 12 hours of orientation training once in their board tenure. You have one year from the July 1 after taking office to complete that training. By attending today's course, you will earn eight hours of credit, complete half of the orientation requirement and complete your state-mandated ethics training.

Speakers



Sally Smith, J.D., is AASB's executive director. She joined the staff in 1986 and has served in numerous senior staff positions, including assistant executive director, director of research and special projects and public relations director. She has a bachelor's degree in journalism from the University of Missouri and a law degree from the Birmingham School of Law.



Susan Salter is AASB's director of leadership development. She first joined the AASB staff in 1995 and served as the association's director of public relations for a decade. From 2005-2008, she served as director of membership services. Susan trains school boards on a variety of topics, including the board's roles; understanding and using data; and effective communication and decision making. She also coordinates AASB's strategic planning service and leads board self-evaluations.



Jayne H. Williams, Esq., is AASB's general counsel and director of legal advocacy. She is also a past president of the Alabama Council of School Board Attorneys. Prior to joining AASB, she was a shareholder practicing education law with the Montgomery firm of Hill, Hill, Carter, Franco, Cole & Black, where she remains of counsel.



Kim McPherson is one of Alabama's most respected experts in school system financial operations. She has served local schools systems as both a chief school financial officer and an auditor with the Examiner of Public Accounts. For a number of years, she was part of a team of financial experts the Alabama State Department of Education deployed to help school systems in financial crises. She continues to serve as a financial consultant, CSFO trainer and school board trainer.