

advocate for SCHOOLS



CLICK BELOW TO SEE A LIST OF BILLS BEING TRACKED BY AASB DURING THE 2019 REGULAR SESSION



Stay Tuned...

We will have an up-close and personal look at Gov. Kay Ivey's education budget proposals next week and will detail the K-12 funding highlights in our next publication.

Legislative & Policy Agenda

AASB helps local education leaders improve student achievement through advocacy for Alabama's public schools. AASB's more than 800 members represent every public school board in the state. AASB's [policy agenda](#) represents their collective voice.

Advocacy Days

Spend a day in Montgomery with AASB staff to learn and experience the legislative process, interact with lawmakers and earn two training hours.

April 2 - Districts 4,5,6

April 16 - Districts 1,2,3

April 30 * - Districts 7,8,9

May 21 & 22 - All Districts

2019 Legislative Session

1st Special: Adjourned
Regular: 29 days remaining

* Rescheduled from March 19

Infrastructure, Improvements and Increases

Gov. Kay Ivey's three-bill infrastructure and "gas tax" package - **Rebuild Alabama** - was signed into law on Tuesday. With bipartisan support in both the House and Senate, the package moved quickly during a five-day Special Session (the minimum amount of days needed for any bill to move through the legislative process and become enacted).

The 10 cents per gallon hike will be phased in over three years. Currently, the tax is 18 cents per gallon for gasoline and 19 cents for diesel. The additional gasoline and diesel fuel taxes are estimated to generate gross receipts of up to \$194 million in FY 2020, \$259 million in FY 2021, \$323 million in FY 2022 and each fiscal year thereafter. The law ([Act 2019-2](#)) raises the fuel tax by six cents after Aug. 31 this year. Additional two-cent increases will take effect on Oct. 1 in 2020 and 2021. In addition to the 10 cent phase-in, the state fuel tax will now be tied into the National Highway Construction Cost Index which *could* adjust Alabama's fuel tax by one cent every two years beginning in 2023. A new \$200 annual user fee (license and registration) for electric vehicles and \$100 for plug-in hybrid vehicles (\$100) will take effect Jan. 1, 2020. All of the money raised will be deposited into the Rebuild Alabama Fund for disbursement as follows: Alabama Department of Transportation 66.67 percent, counties 25 percent and municipalities 8.33 percent.

Also included in the package were ([Act 2019-1](#)) which increases legislative oversight for the Department of Transportation and ([Act 2019-3](#)) which creates a bond issue for the State Docks in Mobile.

Improving Education System

During the recent [State of the State Address](#), Ivey touted important strides the "Strong Start, Strong Finish" initiative has been making to improve Alabama's education system. Pointing to the \$18.5 million FY 2019 increase in Pre-K funding, Ivey said 107 new First Class Pre-K classrooms were added last fall. She said 75 more classrooms were gained as a result of the P-3 pilot program aimed at building upon the Pre-K gains. Ivey dictated her education budget (set to be introduced when the Regular Session reconvenes next Tuesday) will include a \$25 million request to expand First Class Pre-K Program by 193 classrooms.

Budget Increases

Emphasizing that Alabama's teachers "deserve to be the highest paid public employees in our state," Ivey's budget also will include a four-percent pay raise for all teachers: pre-K through postsecondary. Also included is \$75 million increase in investment for Alabama's four-year public colleges and universities. While no other K-12 line items or funding were mentioned, money for classroom instructional materials also are expected to be a priority.

-Compiled by AASB staff and other reports



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