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It's a Date!

January 2019
School Board Member
Recognition Month

Jan. 11 (8 hours)
[Roles & Responsibilities
Orientation](#)
Montgomery, Ala.

Jan. 12 (6 hours)
[Effective Boards &
Relationships](#)
Montgomery, Ala.

Feb. 7 (1 hour)
Webinar: [Avoiding &
Responding to a Data
Breach](#)

Feb. 23
[Board Officers Workshop
Workshop](#)
Montgomery, Ala.

March.1
Early Bird Workshop
Birmingham, Ala.

March 1
Poverty Simulation
Birmingham, Ala.

March 1 & 2
March Conference
Birmingham, Ala.

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State Board Reviews 2017-18 Accountability Report Cards

The state's K-12 schools earned a B overall on the state education accountability report card for the 2017-18 school year, up from last year's C+. The report cards will be available to the public by Dec. 31. State Superintendent Dr. Eric Mackey told state board members during their regular meeting Thursday that incremental improvement made the difference in raising last year's score of 79 to this year's score of 80. The good news came in academic growth where Mackey said both poor and wealthy schools showed strong improvement overall; however, the data revealed the state has more work to do in closing the achievement gap among subgroups. In addition, schools continue to struggle with chronic absenteeism, an indicator that went in the wrong direction this year, with the number of students who missed 15 school days or more rising from 17 to 18 percent. The state's report card includes factors required by Alabama's ESSA plan and involves a variety of datapoints and weighting formulas. See an [in-depth report from al.com](#).

In more good news, Mackey reported 171 new Nationally Board Certified Teachers (NBCT) in Alabama. That number, helped by state legislative funding for scholarships to increase the number of teachers seeking the designation, puts Alabama at 10th in the nation with a total of 2,703 NBCT. Gov. Kay Ivey is requesting additional funds to continue NBCT stipends and scholarships to help grow this elite teacher group. The [National Board Certification](#) is the most respected professional certification available in K-12 education. More than 118,000 educators nationwide have earned the designation.

In its work session, Mackey discussed plans to help students improve their performance in the ACT college entrance exam that is provided to every high school junior in the state. The composite score for the graduating class of 2018 was 19.1 and has remained relatively the same for the past few years. He noted several states have made significant gains, specifically Kentucky and Tennessee, and such efforts will be part of his upcoming strategic plan. See the [Alabama ACT profile report](#) that provides graphics of state results compared to national results.

Finally, the Alabama State Department of Education is working on a model policy to address the supervision of juvenile sex offenders, as required by the recently passed "Annalyn's Law." The comprehensive model policy will be completed by Jan. 1, 2019, and will be shared with local school boards to address juvenile sex offenders deemed low risk by the court who return to school as students. Local boards must adopt their policies by the 2020-21 school year, per [Act 2018-528](#).

The next state board meeting and work session is scheduled for Thursday, January 10.

State Board Retreat

State Board members met for their annual full-day retreat on Wednesday, Dec. 12, where Mackey shared his top priorities for the next year and facilitated a full agenda of presentations about ongoing projects and initiatives.

Implementing the new math course of study will be a top priority as will delivering quality professional development and training for educators, Mackey said. The two-year implementation includes the course of study being voluntary in the 2019-2020 school year before becoming mandatory for 2020-2021. Board members have redlined copies of the standards that incorporate public comments and suggested changes to the initial draft. The final version will be presented in February before a board vote in March.

The second priority focuses on the teaching profession. Mackey listed addressing the certification process, identifying, recruiting and retaining teachers and exploring alternative and traditional pathways to the teaching profession as critical work to address the growing need for teachers in the classroom, particularly for STEM fields and special education. He said work is already beginning with a Commission on the Teaching Profession, chaired by Roanoke City Schools Superintendent Chuck Marcum.

The board worked through its retreat agenda that included:

A+ College Ready Program

A video and presentation illustrated the state is



realizing great returns for students after 10 years of the program that emphasizes robust training for educators and administrators to set high expectations for student learning and access to Advanced Placement courses. [Learn more.](#)

Accountability/Report Cards Update

Deputy State Superintendent Dr. Daniel Boyd updated the board about changes to the state ESSA plan, including revisions to the weights used in factors to compile the state report card. He also explained the required participation rates and how chronic absenteeism figures are determined. Board members had questions about the growth rate and learned the computer-adaptive test is able to capture growth for every student based on their individual level of achievement. Boyd said the ALSDE's Office of School Improvement is moving forward with its model to provide supports for identified school systems.

Alabama Accountability Act (AAA) Status

Deputy Commissioner and tax attorney Joe Garrett of the Alabama Department of Revenue presented an update on the AAA. He also shared the program evaluation released by the Institute of Social Science Research at The University of Alabama, which found academic achievement for students enrolled in private schools under AAA was similar to students attending public schools, with many failing to meet benchmark proficiency scores. Participation in AAA scholarships was not associated with significant improvement on standardized test scores. [View executive summary.](#)

Career and Technical Education (CTE) Plan

Assistant State Superintendent Dr. Tommy Glasscock shared plans to grow CTE and to incorporate specialization by moving from one overall course of study to area clusters. A limited pilot for a new process for program quality certification will be implemented in 2019-2020, before a full rollout in 2020-2021. The focus will be leadership development for CTE directors. Glasscock added that strategic work with regional workforce councils is underway and a new dual enrollment strategy is being implemented. [View presentation.](#)

Office of Education & Workforce Transformation

Nick Moore, coordinator of the newly formed Governor's Office of Education and Workforce Transformation, shared a multi-pronged approach to implementing the governor's Strong Start Strong Finish initiative. A coordinating council and variety of state agencies will be part of the education-to-workforce pipeline strategy. The plan includes three federal funding grants that provide some \$800 million and incorporates an overarching approach that exposes students to multiple opportunities and disciplines in early grades.

Fair Campaign Practices Act Annual Report Deadline Jan. 31

Elected school board members and elected superintendents have until Jan. 31 to file their annual Fair Campaign Practices Act reports. The report, which details contributions to and expenditures by elected officials and candidates in 2018, is available through the Alabama Secretary of State's Office and local probate judges' offices and [can be downloaded from the Secretary of State's website.](#) In addition, anyone who ran for a public office in 2018 and has not yet dissolved his election committee must file a report. Local officials should file with their probate judge; state officials file with the secretary of state.

APTV Young Heroes Award

Nominations for Alabama Public Television's Annual Young Heroes Award are open until Feb. 8. The award honors students in grades 9-12, under the age of 18, who display courage, determination, volunteerism and a commitment to excellence. Students can be in any Alabama

public, private or parochial school. Five students who have excelled academically, served their communities and overcome unique hardships in their lives will each receive a 5,000 scholarship, a tablet computer and other surprises. More information can be found on [the APT website.](#)

January is Board Member Recognition Month



In preparation for Alabama's annual observance of School Board Member Recognition Month in January, AASB is providing a toolkit with promotional materials for superintendents, school principals, chambers of commerce and other education supporters to use, complete with downloadable and customizable templates. A link to the online toolkit will be sent via email to all superintendents and board secretaries next week. For more information, send an email to publicrelations@AlabamaSchoolBoards.org, or call 800-562-0601.

Get 50% Off New Simbli Meetings Module



Simbli by eBOARDsolutions has released several new updates to its award-winning Meetings Module and is celebrating with a [half-off promotion.](#) Updates include a new and improved user interface, increased speed and performance, a mobile responsive design and more. Alabama's school boards have until January 31 to take advantage of this half-off promotion. Don't miss out on a great opportunity to make your board meetings faster, easier and more efficient! For more information or to schedule a demo for your board, call 770-822-3626 or email crigby@eboardsolutions.com.

Congrats: New and Returning District Directors

New District 9 Director Beth Wilder was sworn in Dec. 8, the final day of AASB's Annual Convention. Wilder, president of the Huntsville City school board, replaces former District 9 Director Connie Spears. Wilder has been a member of the Huntsville Board since 2014. She has served on AASB's Nominating Committee and on the Huntsville Teacher of the Year Committee. She was sworn in alongside returning district directors Shannon Cauley (District 1), Greg Price (District 3), Renna Soles Scott (District 5) and Brad Ingle (District 7).