

FOR YOUR information

A MONTHLY UPDATE ON
STATE BOARD PROCEEDINGS,
ASSOCIATION NEWS & K-12 TOPICS



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Schedule Your Whole Board Training

There are only four months left in the 2018-19 training year and slots are filling up quickly for AASB-led whole board trainings. Review AASB's [whole board training brochure](#) to determine which topic will best suit your board's training needs and submit [your online training request form](#).

It's a date!

Feb. 23 (6 hours)

9 a.m. to p.m.

[Board Officers Workshop](#)

March 1 (2.5 hours)

[Poverty Simulation](#)

9 to 11:30 a.m.

Birmingham, Ala.

March 1 (2 hours)

1 to 3 p.m.

Birmingham, Ala.

[Understanding Dyslexia](#)

March 1 & 2 (6 hours)

Birmingham, Ala.

[Leadership for Financial Accountability](#)

Advocacy Days (2 hours)

[March 19 - Districts 7, 8 and 9](#)

[April 2 - Districts 4, 5 and 6](#)

[April 16 - Districts 1, 2 and 3](#)

[May 21 & 22 - All districts](#)

June 14-16

AASB Summer Conference

& Law Clinic

Orange Beach, AL

June 15 & 16

ACSBA Summer Conference

June 17-19

AAAA Summer Conference

Board Work Session Features Robust Discussion on Proposed Math Standards

The State Board of Education work session Thursday focused largely on the [revised course of study for mathematics](#). If approved by the board in March, local school systems may voluntarily adopt the standards for the 2019-20 school year before they become mandatory in 2020-21.

A committee of Alabama teachers and other professionals, chaired by former Huntsville and now Gulf Shores Superintendent Matt Akin, conducted a review of the math standards, using multiple state and national resources to develop its initial draft. That draft underwent a one-month public review, and every public comment was then considered and addressed as needed before presenting the revised proposal to the state board Thursday.

Deputy State Superintendent of Education Dr. Daniel Boyd said the effort took seriously the challenge to raise Alabama's bottom NAEP ranking in mathematics scores. Boyd added that the effort called for moving beyond the status quo.

Several items were highlighted by board members during the discussion, including a change that now will require every senior in high school to take a mathematics course. Dr. Cynthia McCarty (District 6) commended that change and urged the ALSDE to provide materials for parents to help make the standards as clear and concise as possible.

New board member Tracie West (District 2) also praised the committee's work, saying it appeared that the committee began the work with the end in mind. One of the committee's primary goals was to identify higher education math courses and provide a clear pathway for k-12 students to select the courses needed to stay on track. Board members encouraged the same approach for students on the career and technical education pathway.

Boyd outlined the comprehensive effort to provide professional development in the field for teachers about the standards, including the use of in-service centers, working with AMSTI and collaboration with the A+ Education Partnership.

Jackie Ziegler (District 1) strongly encouraged the ALSDE to emphasize communication in its efforts to inform educators about available professional development for the new math standards. Even the best resources won't help end users if they aren't aware of them, Ziegler explained. She urged continuous, sustained professional development on the standards. West suggested a parent portal or statewide toolkit resource as well.

Also during Thursday's work session, the board reviewed the [proposal for new physical education and health courses of study](#), which were developed by a committee of teachers, practitioners and other professionals and chaired by Hoover Superintendent Dr. Kathy Murphy. Murphy's presentation began with a dire warning that children in this generation are in jeopardy of being the first in history to have a shorter projected life span than their parents. The proposed standards would now include adapted physical education standards for students with disabilities. Scheduled discussion about proposed changes to the Alabama Administrative Code regarding yoga rules was deferred. State Superintendent of Education Dr. Mackey indicated the ALSDE had been notified about legal concerns that need to be addressed.

At the regular meeting Thursday, the board appointed members to two courses of study committees: English Language Arts and Career and Technical Education. The committees will review the courses of study over the next year, and the process again will include public review before presenting a proposal to be considered by the State Board next year.

The board adopted resolutions to officially recognize February as Career and Technical Education month and March as Arts Education month. State Superintendent of Education Eric Mackey also informed the board about the selection of PowerSchool as a new student learning management system. The system will be onboarded beginning in fall 2020. Mackey assured the board he expects a seamless transition and the current system will be continued until the transition is completed.

Mackey ended the meeting with a brief update



about recent reports of potential errors in the 2017 graduation rates for Alabama's special needs student population. The graduation rate among that demographic indicates an improvement of more than 20 percentage points over the previous year. Mackey indicated the ALSDE always reviews data and performs a deep dive when an anomaly is discovered. A full report will be provided to the board in March about the graduation rates for special needs students.

Next State Board Meeting

The next board meeting will be held in Montgomery on March 14 at 10 a.m., followed by a work session. The board will then begin its two-day retreat on March 14 and 15.

House Ways & Means Education Committee Meeting

The House Ways and Means Education Committee held a pre-session meeting this week in Montgomery. The meeting included presentations from Pre-K, Alabama community colleges, Alabama Retirement Systems and more. Chairman Bill Poole also asked State Superintendent Dr. Eric Mackey to deliver a [presentation about the AMSTI program](#). Another meeting will be held to focus on the Alabama Reading Initiative.

Still Time to Register for March Conference

It's not too late to [register for AASB's annual Spring Academy Core Conference: Leadership for Financial Accountability](#). The conference will be held March 1 and 2 at the Hyatt Regency Birmingham - The Wynfrey Hotel. School board members will earn 6 training hours and enjoy information-packed general sessions and breakout clinics.

Participants can earn extra hours on March 1 by attending the [Poverty Simulation](#) and this year's Early Bird Workshop, [Understanding Dyslexia](#). General session keynote speakers and topics include:



Financial Forecasting: Why It's Crucial to Your Board's Health

Andy Craig
Deputy State Superintendent,
Alabama State Department
of Education



Data Breach and Security Threats

Dr. Greg Price
Chief Technology and Security Officer,
Troy University, and AASB District 3 Director



Innovative Ways to Cut Expenses

John Wilson
Chief School Financial Officer, Baldwin
County Schools



What You Should Be Seeing at Your Work Sessions & Budget Hearings

Melanie Maples
Chief School Financial Officer, Decatur
City Schools

Backpack & Food Drive Donations

Help make a difference by taking part in AASB's annual March Conference Food & Backpack Drive. Bring non-perishable food items and backpack donations to benefit the [Community Food Bank of Central Alabama's Weekenders Backpack Program](#), which helps to ensure students in need have nutritious meals on the weekends.

Summer Conference Registration Opens Feb. 19



Registration opens Feb. 19 for AASB's annual Summer Conference. Held June 14-16 at the Perdido Beach Resort in Orange Beach, Ala., the training event will feature informative and inspirational sessions, practical education learning labs, a variety of exhibitors and numerous networking opportunities. [Learn more.](#)

Keep Your Policy Manual Up to Date

Want access to the information needed to keep your school system's policy manual up to date with a minimal investment of time and money? [A subscription to AASB's Policy Pipeline is your solution.](#) The annual edition, which includes expert insights, timely draft policies on relevant issues and updates on legal and administrative developments, typically arrives after the legislative session and before the start of the school year. Subscribers can read the issue and ask questions during the annual subscribers-only policy maintenance call on **August 22**.

Policy Pipeline subscriptions are \$850 per year. And if you use AASB's Policy Review & Analysis Service, you'll get a free, first-year subscription to the *Policy Pipeline* in the year your policy revisions are completed. Contact policy@AlabamaSchoolBoards.org for more information.

Earn Hours and Sharpen Your Advocacy Skills

Spend a day in Montgomery with AASB staff during the Association's annual Advocacy Days, where you'll get an up-close view of the legislative process and meet your lawmakers at the State House. We are encouraging local board members in specific districts to attend an Advocacy Day together. Participants will not only earn two hours of training credit, but also will complete one of the criteria for attaining Master's Honor Roll Status.

- [March 19 - Districts 7, 8 and 9](#)
- [April 2 - Districts 4, 5 and 6](#)
- [April 16 - Districts 1, 2 and 3](#)
- [May 21 & 22 \(half-day\) - Open to all districts](#)

\$3,250 in Prizes for AASB's Annual Video Contest

The Alabama Association of School Boards announces its eighth annual statewide video contest with a new theme, "Road to Success," which will highlight the many different pathways to success in Alabama's schools, from career technical training to performing arts.

Four winning public schools (grades 6-12) will be selected for their 30- to 60-second commercials/public service announcements and share in prize money totaling \$3,250. A maximum of two entries will be accepted from each Alabama school system. The deadline to enter is April 12.

Visit www.AlabamaSchoolBoards.org/VideoContest for complete details.