



April 14, 2020

TO: AASB Members

FROM: Sally Smith, J.D., Executive Director

RE: AASB Summer Conference

Each year, we look forward to connecting with our members for several days of learning and networking in Orange Beach at what has become the association's largest gathering, AASB Summer Conference. This year, due to continued concerns regarding the COVID-19 pandemic and after much discussion and consideration, we have made the difficult decision to cancel Summer Conference.

This certainly was not an easy call to make; however, in these unprecedented times, the health and safety of our members and staff is our number one priority. While we would have welcomed the opportunity to reschedule the conference for later in the year, that simply was not feasible due to limited scheduling options.

AASB will refund all conference registration and exhibitor fees paid to date. Due to the volume of registrations, please allow up to 30 days for these refunds to be processed.

We know that many of you have made lodging accommodations at the Perdido Beach Resort or at other nearby hotels or condos. Please note the following details regarding cancellation of hotel/condo reservations:

If you have reservations at the Perdido Beach Resort as part of AASB's group block ...

- No action is needed; the Perdido reservations staff will process all guest room reservation cancellations and refunds automatically. There will be no cancellation fees or charges to you of any kind.
- We know that this event doubles as a family beach trip for many of our members. Should you decide to still travel to Orange Beach and stay at the Perdido Beach Resort over the original conference dates of June 19-21, the resort will still honor the discounted group rate. You will need to call and make a new reservation to take advantage of this offer.

If you have condo reservations through Brett Robinson Rentals as part of AASB's group block ...

- You will need to contact the Brett Robinson reservations department directly at 888-633-7101 between the hours of 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. to cancel your reservations. Reservations must be cancelled by April 30 to receive a full refund.

If you have hotel reservations as part of AASB's group block at one of the official overflow hotels ...

- **The Lodge at Gulf State Park:** No action is needed. The Lodge will cancel all room reservations. There will be no cancellation fees or charges to you of any kind.
- **Hilton Garden Inn:** Call the Hilton reservations desk at 251-974-1600, use the Hilton app or click the link within your confirmation email to cancel your reservation. Cancellations must be completed at least 72 hours prior to scheduled arrival date to avoid charges.

While AASB negotiated group rates with the above properties, we understand that many of you may have made reservations through other companies. It is our understanding that some of these properties such as VRBO have cancellation cutoff dates as early as April 17. We encourage you to check with them as soon as possible to discuss your cancellation options.

Our staff is continuing to work on alternate training opportunities and other options to meet your needs, but we wanted to get you the information about the conference cancellation as soon as possible. Please stay tuned for additional communications regarding training.

If you have further questions, please don't hesitate to contact us. Thank you for your patience, understanding and unwavering commitment to Alabama's public schools, students and educators. Working together, we will get through these difficult times and emerge stronger and better on the other side. We already are looking forward to seeing you at the beach in 2021!