

FOR YOUR information

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

this issue

WBT: Book Early and Save [P.1](#)

Fall District Meetings [P.2](#)

District Director Elections [P.2](#)

Special Education Webinar [P.2](#)

Fall Academy Core Conference [P.2](#)



Whole Board Training: Book Early and Save!

Get 10% off the regular whole board training fee when you schedule and complete your AASB-provided training for August or September.

It's a Date!

Aug. 30-Sept. 24 (1.5 hrs)
District Meetings
*Faith, Freedom & Fairness:
Religion in Public Schools*

Aug. 31
**Student Entertainment
Applications** for AASB
Convention Due

Sept. 6 (1 hour)
Webinar: *What Every
School Board Member
Should Know About
Special Education*

September 7
**All-State Awards
Nomination Deadline**

Sept. 30 - Oct. 1 (6 hrs)
**Fall Academy Core
Conference:** *Leadership to
Create the Optimal
Learning Environment*

Oct. 1 (2 hours)
**Post-Conference
Workshop:** *Communicating
in a Crisis*

Nov. 15 (1 hour)
Webinar (TBA)

Dec. 6-8 (8 hours)
Annual AASB Convention
Birmingham, Ala.

NAEP in 2019, Assessments and Educator Preparation Report Cards

State Superintendent of Education Dr. Eric Mackey told state board members Alabama is [doing more than ever before to prepare for the NAEP assessment](#), which will be administered to some Alabama students in 2019. Known as "The Nation's Report Card," the test is the largest nationally representative assessment of k-12 students' knowledge in various subject areas, including mathematics, reading and science. The assessment is administered every other year to a sample group of students from every state, and Alabama has historically ranked near the bottom in performance.

Mackey assured board members during the July 10 work session that a targeted push is under way to make significant progress this year. He said the goal is to crosswalk standards being taught with those assessed on NAEP. The effort is part of a framework that will be integrated in the new courses of study currently being developed for mathematics.

Providing resources and communicating the importance of NAEP statewide will be key, Mackey said. The ALSDE will host local superintendents on August 29 and principals and site coordinators in September to provide prep and resources for those schools randomly selected to participate in the 2019 NAEP assessments.

Also during the work session, Mackey shared an update about the process to revise the state [courses of study standards for mathematics](#), as well as health and physical education, the three subjects up in the state's standards-review timeline. The group charged with reviewing mathematics standards has divided into early, middle and high school grades and will align the work so the progress is seamless as students transition grade levels. Starting in November, the work will be published for online public review. The ALSDE will request funding to roll out a strong professional development program to help boost educators' confidence in teaching the new standards.

Mackey indicated the lack of a sound grasp of algebra concepts has been one of the state's biggest problems, as algebra is the

gateway course to understanding higher mathematics. In coming meetings, the board plans to discuss rigor in early grades to enable students to take calculus and statistics in high school.

During an assessment update, Mackey explained the challenges that have transpired as a result of last year's switch from [ACT Aspire to Scantron](#). This year, the state must bridge results from the two very different tests as part of reporting requirements for the state-mandated report card. The ALSDE initially brought educators together to set cut scores for comparison; however, the effort was unsuccessful, as the scores provided unrealistic results that falsely inflated performance. The ALSDE next used a statistical analysis to overlay the two tests, producing more accurate results that show similar performance from last year. Mackey likened this challenging time period to a traffic bottleneck as infrastructure improvements are made on the interstate. He said it is difficult now, but when the new state-developed assessment tool is launched in 2020, the state will benefit from valid, accurate results.

In other news, Mackey said the educator preparation program report cards are ready but will be embargoed until September 13, providing the board an opportunity to view the information before a public release. The report cards will not include letter grades at this point, but will offer underlying information to provide transparency. The data provides a mechanism to compare how graduates from differing institutions perform, as the state focuses on strengthening teacher preparation. Educator preparation programs at some institutions have students that pass their mathematics content test (PRAXIS) on the first attempt, and others have a number of students that pass after multiple attempts. The educator preparation report cards will require colleges of education to provide a similar level of transparency as k-12 schools are required to provide for the state report cards.

Also in the work session, Mackey shared the proposed [SDE operating budget](#) for board members to review. Mackey said the budget has been shaved deeply in the past few years.



One item noted by Gov. Ivey was the significant increase in the line item for "other equipment purchases." The increase reflects costs that have been delayed for at least two years for new servers to maintain security and integrity of student data. The board will vote on the budget at its next meeting. Mackey also provided an [updated organizational chart](#) and noted that the legislative liaison role will now be housed in the legal department.

Finally, the board discussed scheduling a retreat to be held in Montgomery the day before its November meeting and plans to invite newly elected board members to participate at that time. In addition, the board will change its schedule and now hold work sessions first, followed by its board meetings.

Next State Board Meeting

The next scheduled work session is Sept. 13 at 10 a.m. in Montgomery, with the board meeting to follow at 11 a.m. Following next month's meetings will be a presentation to celebrate 50 schools with the highest growth in 3rd-grade reading. A special \$1 million incentive provides each school with a check for \$20,000.

Registration Open for Fall District Meetings



Join your district director and area school board colleagues for AASB's Fall District Meetings, Aug. 30 - Sept. 24. This year's program focuses on *Faith, Freedom and Fairness: Religion in Schools*. Schools often must walk a fine line in respecting religious expression while adhering to the law. Veteran school board attorneys will provide guidance on the First Amendment and religion in public schools, discussing what is permissible at board meetings, athletic events, classroom settings and school-related functions. Registration is \$25 and includes dinner. Attendees will earn 1.5 training hours.

Register for your district's meeting below:

- [District 1 - Sept. 11](#)
- [District 2 - Aug. 30](#)
- [District 3 - Sept. 4](#)
- [District 4 - Sept. 13](#)
- [District 5 - Sept. 6](#)

- [District 6 - Sept. 17](#)
- [District 7 - Sept. 18](#)
- [District 8 - Sept. 10](#)
- [District 9 - Sept. 24](#)

Now Accepting District Director Nominations

Nominations are now open for district director elections in AASB Districts 1, 3, 5, 7 and 9. District 1 Director Shannon Cauley, District 3 Director Greg Price, District 5 Director Renna Soles Scott and District 7 Director Brad Ingle all are completing their first full two-year term and are eligible for another. District 9 Director Connie Spears is not seeking re-election. District directors serve two-year terms and can serve two, complete terms.

District director elections are governed by [AASB's Bylaws](#). Nominations must be made in writing and postmarked or received by **Sept. 1**. Ballots listing eligible nominees will be mailed to district members by **Oct. 1**. Each board within a district gets one vote. The board president must certify that the board voted at an October board meeting to

choose a candidate, and the ballot must be received or postmarked to AASB by **Oct. 31**. Directors must be a member of a school board which is a member of AASB. [Nomination forms are available on AASB's website](#).

Sept. 6 Webinar to Focus on Special Education



Don't miss AASB's next "Power Lunch" webinar on Sept. 6, *What Every School Board Member Should Know About Special Education*. This one-hour event from noon to 1 p.m. will feature special education attorney **Julie J. Weatherly, Esq.**, of Resolutions in Special Education (Rise Inc.), a firm that provides special education consulting and legal services to many Alabama school boards and educational agencies, including the State Department of Education.

This webinar is especially timely in light of the U.S. Department of Education's recent [determination that Alabama "needs assistance"](#) in implementing the federal provisions of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act for students ages 3-21. The cost is \$55 for individuals and \$210 for group registrations. Attendees will earn 1 training hour. [Register now.](#)

Fall Conference Registration Open

[Register now](#) for AASB's Fall Academy Core Conference, *Leadership to Create the Optimal Learning Environment*, Sept. 30 and Oct. 1 at the Renaissance Hotel in downtown Montgomery. You'll hear from experts on implicit bias, trauma-informed classrooms and creating a culture of high expectations. You'll even hear from students themselves in a special discussion panel on school climate. School Board members who take this course will earn the 6 hours needed to cover the state's individual training requirement.

After the conference, you won't want to miss the Oct. 1 [Post-Conference Workshop](#) on *Crisis Communications*. No school can predict when a crisis will strike or what that crisis will be, but every school system needs a plan to communicate quickly, accurately and appropriately. Get hands-on guidance from public relations professionals on the correct way to handle crisis communications.

Bring School Supplies for AASB Charity Drive



AASB will once again collect school supplies during the Fall Academy Core Conference. We're asking all school board members in attendance to bring school supply donations which will be donated to a local charity to help area school children. Involve your schools and communities in this important effort to make a difference!

We're Looking for a Few Good Board Members!



**ALL-STATE
NOMINATIONS
DUE SEPT. 7**