



## 2026 LEGISLATIVE & POLICY AGENDA

Alabama Association of School Boards



### ETF & SUSTAINABLE FUNDING

- Establish dedicated funding for school safety and security to plan for a phased-in approach to fully fund School Security Act of 2024 and reimburse systems that have previously implemented School Security Rubric criteria.
- Oppose vendor-specific appropriations that limit local procurement authority and bypass competitive bidding.
- Protect existing K-12 revenue streams by opposing legislative efforts to redirect, reduce or eliminate funding currently dedicated to public education.
- Oppose earmarks within local board of education allocations in the Education Advancement & Technology Fund (EAT).
- Require full funding for employee benefits including health insurance, retirement enhancements or other mandated programs.
- Create legislative study commission to annually review and publish a report on the fiscal impact of tax credits and exemptions, with recommendations for sunset provisions.
- Support inflation adjustments tied to Consumer Price Index or similar metrics to maintain purchasing power of education allocations.
- Ensure equitable distribution of online sales tax revenue (SSUT) with local boards receiving their proportional share.
- Increase funding for assistant principal and counselor units to better support student well-being and administrative capacity.



### CAPITAL OUTLAY & INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT

- Allocate \$1 billion for public K-12 education capital needs through direct appropriations or a combined approach using one-time funds and education reserves.
- Prioritize critical infrastructure, including school bus fleet renewal, which has not been adjusted for inflation or current-day costs since 1994.



### SCHOOL CHOICE TRANSPARENCY & ACCOUNTABILITY

- Establish parity in accountability standards requiring nonpublic schools receiving public funds to meet the same academic reporting, non-discrimination and financial transparency requirements as public schools.
- Support annual public reporting of achievement data, curriculum, graduation rates and financial expenditures for all entities receiving state funds.



## LOCAL CONTROL & GOVERNANCE

- **Preserve local board authority** over curriculum adoption, instructional methodology, school calendars, personnel decisions, student discipline policies and health and safety protocols.
- **Address and promote sound, effective board governance** by expanding existing state intervention statute to add progressive, proactive strategies, which, if unsuccessful, lead to state intervention or board member suspension.
- **Support local initiatives for appointed superintendents** and protect local school board authority.
- **Oppose unfunded mandates** that impose new requirements without corresponding resources or flexibility to implement.
- **Protect public records integrity** by updating the law to ensure requests serve the intent of the law, not criminal or vendor efforts to obtain data.

*AASB's advocacy work for school boards serves as a crucial bridge between local education needs and state policy decisions. By amplifying the voices of students, educators and communities who may otherwise go unheard, school boards fulfill an essential civic responsibility, ensuring policy decisions are informed by real challenges and opportunities facing public schools.*

### FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:



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