

advocate for SCHOOLS



TO SEE A LIST OF BILLS TRACKED BY AASB
DURING THE 2026 REGULAR SESSION,
CLICK ON BILL TRACKER BELOW:



Legislative and Policy Agenda

AASB helps local education leaders improve student achievement through advocacy for Alabama's public schools. The association's more than 800 school board members represent every public school board in the state. AASB's legislative and policy agenda represents their collective voice.

2026 POLICY AGENDA

AASB Advocacy Days

Join us in Montgomery for AASB Advocacy Days. The dates listed are open to board members, superintendents and CSFOs. If you are unable to make your district's Advocacy Day, feel free to sign up for a date that works for you.

Tuesday, Feb. 3
Districts 6, 7, 8, 9
[REGISTER NOW](#)

Tuesday, Feb. 24
Districts 1, 2, 3, 4, 5
[REGISTER NOW](#)

Wednesday, Mar. 18
Committee Day
All Districts
[REGISTER NOW](#)

**2026 Regular
Legislative Session**

24 Days Remain

Education Bills Moving; More In Store for Homeschool?

During the first six days of the legislative session, several pieces of education legislation already have been taken up by lawmakers. Two of Gov. Kay Ivey's priority bills – one to limit screen time for children and another to create a pathway for more military veterans to teach in classrooms – are on a fast track.

➤ Screen Time Limits

H.78 (Ross) would require the Alabama Department of Early Childhood Education to develop guidelines for limited screen time for children from birth to age five in licensed child care, First Class Pre-K and public school kindergarten classrooms, with annual training requirements for teachers. Each local board would be required to adopt a policy on screen time limitations in kindergarten classrooms. This bill is expected to be voted on next week by the full House.

➤ Teaching Certificates for Veterans

S.149 (Woods) would create a new five-year temporary teaching certificate for qualified military veterans with at least 48 months of military service, who do not hold a bachelor's degree and have not completed an educator preparation program.

Candidates would be required to meet academic and educator preparation testing requirements before entering the classroom including:

- At least 60 college credit hours
- Minimum 2.5 GPA
- Passing score on appropriate subject-area Praxis test

A substitute brought by the State Department of Education (SDE) was approved in the **Senate Education Policy Committee** to clarify candidates would not be eligible for an emergency certificate if they pursued this new temporary teaching certificate.

The bill was unanimously approved by the full Senate Thursday and moves to the **House Education Policy Committee** for consideration.

Heavy Focus On Homeschool

Sen. Sam Givhan introduced two bills Wednesday that would require local boards to give homeschool dependents of active duty military parents broad access to public school services, programs and facilities without having to enroll in a public school.

S.201 would require Junior Reserve Officer's Training Corps (JROTC) programs offered in public schools be available to any homeschool student who resides within a school's attendance zone and is the dependent of an active duty military parent.

☛ **NOTE:** The National Defense Authorization Act of 2020 (Section 513) already requires public high schools to admit homeschool students in JROTC programs provided students satisfy program eligibility standards and live within the school's attendance zone.

S.191 would create the Homeschooling Opportunities for Military Education (HOME Act) and require local boards to provide homeschool students who are dependents of an active duty military parent access to public school facilities, equipment, special education services and interscholastic athletics.

☛ **NOTE:** Alabama already permits non-public school students to enroll in public school to participate in coursework and athletics. However, broadening accessibility and services for homeschool students who are not required to enroll in a public school is problematic on many levels.

AASB has called a public hearing before the Senate Education Policy Committee.

City School System Consolidation

The **House Ways and Means Education (HWME) Committee** approved a bill Wednesday that would provide a process for two or more city boards of education to form a consolidated system. Under current law, a county system and a city system may consolidate, but there is nothing in statute allow-

ing for a city system to consolidate with another city system. **HWME Chair Rep. Danny Garrett** told committee members [H.178](#) provides a mechanism for two or more contiguous city systems that have very few students or declining enrollment to consolidate. “Giving systems the ability to consolidate would facilitate better efficiency, reduce overhead and allow dollars to be more impactful in the classroom,” added **Garrett**.

Tweaking TEAMS

[H.122](#), by **House Education Policy Chair Rep. Terri Collins**, would revise the current contract structure of the Teacher Excellence and Accountability for Mathematics and Science (TEAMS) program for participating teachers with over 20 years of eligible service. If enacted, beginning Oct. 1, 2026, the maximum length of any new TEAMS contract would be three years instead of five. TEAMS teachers would still be eligible for one-year contracts that may be extended for a maximum of three years. The TEAMS program was created in 2021 to address critical shortages of math and science teachers in grades six through 12 and in hard-to-fill areas. TEAMS contracts offer significant extra pay of up to \$20,000/year and additional professional development opportunities for qualified teachers who give up tenure.

There was spirited discussion in the **House Education Policy** committee meeting Wednesday, with opposition coming from a few committee members concerned that changes to the contract length would negatively impact teacher recruitment and retention efforts. The bill was given a favorable report and goes to the full House for deliberation.

No Pass, No Drive

The **House Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee** approved a bill that would change the current state law requiring the Alabama State Law Enforcement

Agency (ALEA) to deny a driver’s license or learner’s permit for anyone under age 19 who doesn’t have a high school diploma or equivalent or isn’t enrolled in coursework from a state approved institution or organization. [H.33 \(Bolton\)](#) would change the age ALEA may deny a driver’s license or learner’s permit from 19 to 17.

Cue Up Three Cueing

The Senate unanimously approved a bill Thursday, [S.168 \(Chesteen\)](#), that would prohibit the use of “three cueing” in reading instruction, which is not aligned with the Science of Reading standards established through the Alabama Literacy Act. The bill also states that if the State Board of Education (SBOE) finds a local board not in compliance, the local board, the legislature and the general public will be notified of the violation. This bill would codify an [existing SBOE rule adopted in 2024](#) that already prohibits the three-cueing method of instruction in both public schools and in the state’s educator preparation programs.

Return of Religious Release Time

Speculation is the **Senate Education Policy Committee** will look to move a religious release time bill next week. Attempts to pass this legislation last session were unsuccessful. Stay tuned...

Possible Weather Delay

Given the potential for winter storms in North Alabama, legislative leadership told members they may have to push their convene day from Tuesday to Wednesday. Should severe winter weather occur, both chambers would be in session next week through Friday.

HOUSE AND SENATE KEY EDUCATION COMMITTEES

House Ways & Means Education	House Education Policy
Danny Garrett, Chair	Terri Collins, Chair
Jamie Kiel, Vice Chair	Alan Baker, Vice Chair
Barbara Drummond, RMM*	Barbara Drummond, RMM*
Alan Baker	Norman Crow
Prince Chestnut	Anthony Daniels
Terri Collins	Susan DuBose
Brock Colvin	Tracy Estes
Norman Crow	Bob Fincher
Anthony Daniels	Mark Gidley
Corley Ellis	Jeremy Gray
David Faulkner	TaShina Morris
Kelvin Lawrence	Marcus Paramore
Joe Lovvorn	Kenneth Paschal
Marcus Paramore	Jeana Ross
Troy Stubbs	Van Smith

* Ranking Minority Member

* Ranking Minority Member

Senate Finance & Taxation Ed	Senate Education Policy
Arthur Orr, Chair	Donnie Chesteen, Chair
Gerald Allen, Vice Chair	Shay Shelnett, Vice Chair
Rodger Smitherman, RMM*	Rodger Smitherman, RMM*
Greg Albritton	Tom Butler
Tom Butler	Vivian Davis Figures
Donnie Chesteen	Garlan Gudger, Pro Tem
Vivian Davis Figures	Kirk Hatcher
Sam Givhan	Jay Hovey
Garlan Gudger, Pro Tem	Wes Kitchens
Kirk Hatcher	Randy Price
Jay Hovey	Larry Stutts
Keith Kelley	
Tim Melson	
Dan Roberts	
David Sessions	
Bobby Singleton	
Jabo Waggoner	

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