

advocate for SCHOOLS



POST-SESSION
SPECIAL
EDITION

Important Implementation Dates and Deadlines

While schools are gearing up for summer break, AASB's advocacy and legal teams are actively working to help school boards prepare for implementing legislation passed during the 2026 legislative session and pointing out some important Education Trust Fund (ETF) budget package deadlines. The governor signed 50 education-related bills into law this legislative session, including the ETF budget package. However, these laws do not all take effect at the same time, nor are all required to be implemented for the 2026–27 school year.

- Insuring facilities;
- Transportation;
- Purchase of education technology and equipment;
- School security measures as part of a systemwide security plan;
- Capital outlay, and
- **NEW** for this year only - debt service.

View the SDE Memo with your school system's EAT amount and instructions [HERE](#).

NEW

AASB Legislative Implementation Guide

To support school boards in preparing for effective implementation, AASB has developed

a brand new resource - a simplified **Legislative Implementation Guide** based on the 2026 legislative enactments. The guide clearly outlines which new laws require action at the local and state levels, including the State Department of Education (SDE) and the State Board of Education (SBOE). The guide is organized as a timeline, showing when each law goes into effect and the applicable school year.

View the Implementation Guide [HERE](#).

EAT Supplemental Appropriation

The **FY26 Education Advancement and Technology (EAT) Supplemental** allocates \$575 million in one-time funding to school boards. The EAT also includes **\$150 million** for career and technical education (CTE) grants and **\$4.9 million** in special legislative earmarked projects, separate from school board allocations.

EAT School Board Allocations: While the legislature directly appropriates **\$575 million** in EAT funds to local school boards, the law still requires each school board to apply to the SDE for prior approval from the state superintendent. **Applications are due to the SDE no later than Aug. 3.**

Allowable uses of EAT funds:

- Repairs or deferred maintenance of facilities;
- Classroom instructional support;

Special Legislative Projects: Legislators also carved out **\$4.9 million** from the EAT for **earmarked projects within select schools and systems**. These earmarked funds can only be utilized for the express purposes listed in the law which is separate from the ADM formula allocations for each school board. Some of these earmarks are for projects that would otherwise not be allowable under the EAT, such as for athletic equipment. AASB notified each school board of their legislative earmarked allocation during session to ensure each board was aware of the amount and intended project. The SDE is allocating these funds directly to systems (listed below alphabetically) without requiring an application for prior approval:

- Auburn City - Outdoor Classroom: **\$500,000**
- Birmingham City - Security Cameras: **\$30,000**
- Trussville City - Cahaba Elementary Outdoor Classroom: **\$100,000**
- Clay County - Agricultural Barn: **\$100,000**
- Coffee County - No Project Listed: **\$230,000**
- Coosa County - Storm Shelter: **\$50,000**
- Elba City - Roof Repairs: **\$380,000**
- Elmore County - CTE International Baccalaureate Program: **\$550,000**
- Fairfield City - Preparatory School: **\$35,000**
- Fayette County - No Project Listed: **\$100,000**
- Hale County - Greensboro Campus: **\$350,000**
- Trussville City - Hewitt-Trussville High School Athletic Equipment: **\$245,000**
- Lamar County - No Project Listed: **\$100,000**
- Jackson County - Natural Gas Expansion and Connection: **\$350,000**
- Jefferson County - Chalkville Elementary School: **\$75,000**

- Jefferson County - Clay Elementary School: **\$75,000**
- Morgan County - Eva Elementary School Outdoor Activity Center: **\$90,000**
- Orange Beach - Culinary School : **\$350,000**
- Perry County - No Project Listed: **\$100,000**
- Tarrant City - High School: **\$100,000**
- Thomasville City - Middle School Cafeteria: **\$100,000**
- Tuscaloosa County - CTE Program: **\$140,000**
- Montgomery County - Westside Workforce Development Center: **\$500,000**
- Vestavia City - Auditorium Plan: **\$100,000**
- Wilcox/Autauga Civics Academy: **\$150,000**

CAUTIONARY NOTE: To protect already dwindling EAT funds and their intended purpose, AASB strongly urges individual school board requests be pursued through the ETF supplemental or legislative community service grants.

Career and Technical Education Grants

CTE Grants: Funded at **\$150 million**, an increase over last year's one-time **\$100 million** appropriation, these grants are for the development of regional CTE centers across the state, including capital outlay and equipment. Grant proposals must include at least two local school systems or between a school system partnering with a community college within the Alabama Community College System. Preference may be given to grant awards that weren't fully funded last year and to previously submitted proposals that didn't receive funding.

Community Service Grants

Lawmakers approved more than **\$22 million in** funding for legislative **Community Service Grants** by combining **\$12.6 million** from the FY27 Education Trust Fund (ETF) and **\$10 million** in one-time supplemental appropriations. A legislative committee met May 7 to approve applications for the grant program and funds will be allocated directly to approved projects this summer. This funding opportunity (not the EAT supplemental) is an ideal avenue for one-time projects or other critical unmet needs, without cutting into a school board's EAT allocation - talk to your legislators about accessing this funds. **AASB has previously requested information about community service grant applications and amounts awarded but our requests were denied.**

Classroom Instructional Support

Classroom Instructional and Support Funds allocated in the FY27 ETF Budget are subject to the school-level allocation and purchasing process. These funds cannot be used to supplement common purchases. The **\$1,000 per unit** appropriated for **teacher classroom materials and supplies** does not have to be voted on by the budget committee. The allocations below are calculated based on total units earned, including teachers, principals, assistant principals, counselors, librarians and CTE directors and counselors.

- Technology **\$500/unit**
- Professional Development **\$100/unit**
- Library Enhancement **\$158/unit**

View the **SDE memo with instructions for Classroom Instructional Support Funds** [HERE](#).

Middle School Divisors

The **FY27 ETF** allocates additional funding for Grades 7-8 divisors, decreasing from 19.70 to 19.34. It is important to note that while lowering the divisors is a positive step, the overall impact is minimal at best. **NOTE: For FY27, the reduction in middle school divisors generated 103 funding units statewide, yet no school system gained a full unit as a result.**

- Grades K-3: 14.25
- Grades 4-6: 20.06
- Grades 7-8: **19.34**
- Grades 9-12: 17.95

View the **SDE 2026-27 State Totals** [HERE](#).

RAISE Act

The **RAISE Act** allocates extra funding to a school system based on the number of students in specific categories, in addition to the system's Foundation Program allocation. In preparation for the upcoming 2026-27 school year, the RAISE Act Fund was appropriated an additional **\$399 million** from the Educational Opportunities Reserve Fund (EORF) for a total of **\$666 million**. After spending for the current and upcoming school year, the balance in the fund will total **\$533 million** at the end of FY26, ending on Sept. 30, 2026. The FY27 ETF budget appropriates a total of **\$191 million** from the RAISE Act Fund for the 2026-27 school year, with **\$58 million** from the consolidation of previous ETF line items and **\$133 million** from the RAISE Act Fund. This is an increase of **\$25 million** over the current school year. Funds will be distributed to systems using a FY27 Foundation Program base of **\$7,829** per student.

The RAISE Act funding totals for each system are not yet finalized but will be confirmed by the SDE and communicated to systems before July 1.

Universal School Breakfasts

The legislature approved \$7.3 million in supplemental funding for schools to offer breakfast at no cost to all students, regardless of income. Schools may use existing breakfast service models. SDE is available to provide guidance and technical support.

Start the **School Breakfast Approval Process** [HERE](#).



AASB's Policy Pipeline is an annual publication that makes policy recommendations to subscribers based on new laws, regulations, cases or best practices. This year's

Policy Pipeline will be **published to subscribers on Thursday, July 9**, with a webinar **Monday, July 13**. You don't want to miss out on this invaluable resource. Learn more [HERE](#).

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