

advocate for SCHOOLS



2025
ENACTMENTS
ISSUE

2025 Regular Legislative Session Enactments

The following includes a list of **ENACTED** education-related legislation tracked by AASB during the most recent Regular Session including general bills, local bills and joint resolutions.

Act No.	Bill Synopsis	<u>GENERAL BILLS</u>	Bill No./Sponsor Effective Date
Education Trust Fund (ETF) Budget Package and Supplemental Appropriations			
<u>2025-257</u>	RAISE Act - Creates the Renewing Alabama’s Investment in Student Excellence (RAISE) Act. Beginning with the 2025-26 school year, public K-12 systems will receive additional funding for the purpose of addressing educational needs and improving outcomes of certain student populations. <u>View system spreadsheet for weighted category allocations provided to lawmakers.</u>		S.305 (Orr) <i>Effective June 1, 2025</i>
<u>2025-260</u>	Education Opportunities Reserve Fund (EORF) Transfer - Transfers \$375 million phased in over three years to provide initial funding to implement the RAISE Act fund and \$80 million to the Creating Hope and Opportunity for Our Students Education (CHOOSE) Act fund.		S.111 (Orr) <i>Effective May 5, 2025</i>
<u>2025-268</u>	ETF Supplemental Appropriation (FY25) - Provides a \$524 million supplemental appropriation in one-time revenue for multiple entities to be used in FY25 (ending September 30, 2025). K-12 allocation: \$164 million , which includes: \$28 million to local boards for textbook adoption and \$136 million to the State Department of Education (SDE). While not an all-inclusive list, this supplemental also includes \$50.5 million for the CHOOSE Act; \$30 million for summer/afterschool programs; \$15 million for the School Security Act; \$10.3 million for charter school capital grants; \$10 million for College and Career Readiness (CCR) grants; \$10 million for principals/assistant principals stipends; \$10 million for struggling readers beyond 3rd grade; \$7.3 million for school breakfasts and \$1.5 million for the social studies course of study.		S.113 (Orr) <i>Effective May 5, 2025</i>
<u>2025-269</u>	EAT Supplemental Appropriation - Appropriates \$942.9 million to K-12 from the Education Advancement and Technology (EAT) Fund to be used in FY25 (ending September 30, 2025). It authorizes funds to be used for repairs and deferred maintenance; classroom instructional supplies; insurance for facilities; capital outlay; transportation; acquisition/purchase of education technology or for school security. This year’s supplemental also includes earmarks within allocations for several specific local board projects and funds a new \$100 million career tech grant program within the SDE. Note: The SDE has notified LEAs of allocations along with application for qualified expenditures. The deadline to submit applications for SDE review is August 1.		S.114 (Orr) <i>Effective May 5, 2025</i>
<u>2025-270</u>	ETF Budget (FY26) - Appropriates \$9.9 billion from the Education Trust Fund (ETF) for the support, maintenance and development of public education, debt service, capital outlay and private school vouchers for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026. <u>View budget spreadsheet.</u>		S.112 (Orr) <i>Effective October 1, 2025</i>

GENERAL BILLS, contd.

School Choice

2025-402 **ABLE Savings Account/CHOOSE Act Fund Changes** - Allows contributions to the Alabama Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) savings account to remain tax deductible through December 31, 2030. Also amends the CHOOSE Act program's minimum annual allocations and changes both the funding amount and mechanism for the voucher program. It now requires the Alabama Commissioner of Revenue to deposit **\$100 million** annually into the CHOOSE Act Fund from gross ETF receipts for fiscal year 2026 and up to **\$150 million** each fiscal year thereafter. This will allow the Legislature to earmark funds for these CHOOSE Act education savings accounts (ESAs) without that allocation counting against the ETF budget cap. The change limits this allocation to families with a household income at or below 300% of the federal poverty level.

H.52 (Garrett)
Effective June 1, 2025

Education Policy, Procedure and Personnel

2025-3 **What Is A Woman** - Defines sex-based terms as male and female, based on clinical verification at birth. Allows public entities to create single sex spaces. Schools, public agencies and state agencies that collect sex-related data for anti-discrimination laws or accurate public health, crime, economic or other data must identify individuals as either male or female.

S.79 (Weaver)
Effective October 1, 2025

2025-66 **Dual Enrollment** - Upon a parent's request, local education agencies (LEAs) must allow high school students to enroll in approved dual enrollment courses for high school credit per agreements with the LEA and community colleges and/or higher education institutions. LEAs are not required to include these courses in their standard curriculum but must award high school credit for passed courses based upon agreement between the LEA and the institution.

H.102 (Ross)
Effective August 1, 2025

2025-81 **Alabama Public Employee Paid Parental Leave Act of 2025** - Establishes the state's first-ever paid parental leave benefits program for both education and state employees. The law provides eight weeks of paid leave for mothers following the birth, stillbirth, or miscarriage of a child, and two weeks for fathers for the same events. Adoptive parents are also eligible for leave when adopting a child under the age of three. Employees will receive 100% of their base pay during leave. Paid parental leave begins for qualifying events on or after July 1.

S.199 (Figures)
Effective July 1, 2025

2025-223 **Education Employee Workers' Compensation** - Creates a Public Education Employee Injury Compensation Board to oversee claims and manage a dedicated fund for injuries sustained by education employees on the job. The ETF includes a new **\$15.6 million** line item for this law. The new board will start accepting claims not later than Oct. 1, 2026.

S.1 (Givhan)
Effective April 24, 2025

2025-286 **Principal Act Eligibility** - Beginning with the 2025-26 school, the eligibility for the annual \$5,000 principal stipend is redefined to only include schools qualifying as "high poverty" or "low performing." The list of administrators eligible for the main stipend is expanded to include Career and Technical Education (CTE) director-principals and alternative school administrators if they supervise teachers at a standalone facility in a full-time capacity. It also modifies the eligibility criteria for the high poverty/low performing stipend by removing these four indicators: Feeding all students through the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP); Targeted Support and Improvement (TSI) schools; Additional Targeted Support and Improvement (ATSI) schools, and Literacy and Numeracy Act limited support schools. To receive this stipend the school must meet one or more of the following criteria: Free/reduced lunch rate of 75% or more, determined through direct certification; Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI) school status; Priority School on the State Report Card and Literacy and Numeracy Act full support schools. **NOTE: Any administrator whose school was listed on the Principal Act stipend memo will receive the additional stipend for the 2024-25 school year, provided they meet all criteria for the program. The SDE will release a Principal Act additional stipend memo for the 2025-26 school year by the end of the 2025 calendar year.**

S.303 (Orr)
Effective June 1, 2025

GENERAL BILLS, contd.

- 2025-303** **Juneteenth Holiday** - Adds June 19 as a state holiday.
H.165 (Rehm)
Effective June 1, 2025
- 2025-326** **REACH Act** - Creates the Restoring Educational Advancement of Completing High School (REACH) Act. Codifies in law and modifies the current non-traditional high school diploma option so 18-year-olds would be eligible to withdraw from high school and enroll in an adult education program to complete a high school diploma with the Alabama Community College System (ACCS). The ACCS, in collaboration with the SDE and LEAs, will track program participation, student retention, and high school diplomas awarded through the nontraditional high school diploma option. It exempts participating students from their high school's dropout rate on the state report card. The ACCS Board of Trustees and the State Board of Education (SBOE) may adopt rules to implement this law.
H.266 (Woods)
Effective June 1, 2025
- 2025-383** **Public Works Contract Advertising** - Modifies the state public works law in Title 39 to allow contracting awarding authorities to publish advertisements for sealed bids in local newspapers and on a centralized state website, allowing for a centralized advertising database.
H.320 (Pringle)
Section 1 of the Act, effective October 1, 2025
Section 2 of the Act, effective June 1, 2025
- 2025-386** **FOCUS Act (Cell Phone Ban)** - Creates the Freeing Our Classrooms of Unnecessary Screens for Safety (FOCUS) Act. Prohibits student use, operation and possession of personal wireless communication devices in public K-12 schools during the instructional day beginning with the 2025-2026 school year. It requires local boards of education to adopt both a wireless communication device policy and an Internet safety policy. The act provides exceptions for the use of devices on school property. All public school students will be required to complete a social media safety course prior to entering the 8th grade, to be developed by the SDE. Local board policies must be adopted by July 1.
H.166 (Hulsey)
Effective May 14, 2025
- 2025-410** **Alabama Teacher Paperwork Streamlining Act** - Beginning with the 2026-27 school year, requires the SDE, working with local school boards, to develop a unified digital platform and data-sharing system to consolidate and streamline documentation requirements for the Alabama Literacy and Numeracy Acts. It also creates the Alabama Public Education Paperwork Reduction Committee made up of classroom teachers and school system administrators to make recommendations to the SDE about ways to streamline paperwork. It also authorizes the SDE to audit local boards of education for compliance with the paperwork reduction requirements. Any local board failing to implement the paperwork reduction system shall face corrective action, including, but not limited to, retraining of administrators or other measures to ensure compliance. The State Superintendent of Education shall receive approval from the Committee before making recommendations to the SBOE related to teacher paperwork.
S.280 (Orr)
Effective June 1, 2025
- 2025-411** **Success Sequence Curriculum** - Requires the SBOE to adopt and implement a success sequence curriculum encouraging students to complete their education, secure full-time employment and postpone parenthood until after marriage. Students must be exposed to the curriculum at least twice before high school graduation, beginning in the 2026-2027 school year. The SBOE shall develop a process to recruit, select and train instructors to administer the curriculum, and shall adopt rules to implement and administer this law.
S.289 (Orr)
Effective October 1, 2025
- 2025-412** **Move On When Ready** - Permits high school juniors and seniors to enroll full-time at any community college or public higher education institution choosing to participate in the program to take all credits needed for a high school diploma. Participating students will be prohibited from taking any classes or participating in extracurricular activities at their high school. No later than April 1 of each year, local boards shall provide general information and applicable forms about the program to all middle school, 9th, 10th and 11th grade students.
S.196 (Orr)
Effective October 1, 2025

GENERAL BILLS, contd.

School Safety and Health

- 2025-46**

SROs (Nonpublic Schools) - Permits sheriffs and chiefs of police to contract with nonpublic schools to provide school resource officers (SROs), ***ONLY IF these officers are available for every public school system in the city or county where these services would be provided to a nonpublic school.***

S.4 (Elliott)
Effective June 1, 2025
- 2025-171**

Adult Changing Tables - Requires new restroom construction and restroom renovation projects costing more than \$500,000 to include the installation of powered, height-adjustable, adult-sized changing tables, beginning January 1, 2028. Public K-12 schools and public higher education institutions are exempt from the requirements of this section, unless the public K-12 school or public institution of higher education has any area determined by the responsible authority to be frequented by the public, including, but not limited to, auditoriums, gymnasiums, stadiums, and sports halls. Exemptions are provided if the installation is not feasible or the building is not frequented by the public.

S.83 (Orr)
Effective October 1, 2025
- 2025-347**

AEDs in Athletic Venues - Expands the requirement for automatic external defibrillators (AEDs) on public school campuses to include athletic venues and athletic practice facilities. It allows for portable AED units and does not require permanent units be installed in each venue. AEDs shall be clearly marked and easily accessible to anyone at each athletic event space on school property, including, but not limited to, stadiums, athletic fields, gyms, practice fields, and weight rooms when students, athletes, or staff are present. This also includes any school-sponsored athletic event or athletic practice in which students are participating. ***There is a corresponding \$2.5 million supplemental line item for the purpose of implementing this law.***

H.416 (Oliver)
Effective October 1, 2025
- 2025-390**

School Bus Safety Incidents - Identifies the local school superintendent or his designee as the primary liaison with law enforcement for school bus safety incidents, including investigating an incident and filing charges against an individual who has violated school bus safety regulations. The bill further states that a bus driver cannot be required to file charges against an individual.

S.211 (Hatcher)
Effective July 1, 2025
- 2025-403**

Vaping Regulations - Bans the sale of tobacco and nicotine-delivery products in vending machines and creates licensing and fee requirements for sellers. It enhances the regulation of tobacco and electronic nicotine delivery systems, specifically the use of e-cigarettes and vaping devices. A portion of the law designates the proceeds of vaping fines go to the SBOE for a vape awareness, education and prevention program. Section 2 of the law focuses on vapes in the K-12 setting, by: charging the SBOE to adopt a model vape awareness, education and prevention program that prohibits vaping on school property and at school events; requiring local boards of education to adopt a policy that at a minimum covers the same criteria as the SBOE model policy (to be adopted by Sept. 1) and include the local board's policy (to be adopted by Nov. 1) in the student code of conduct, noting applicable school discipline for any vaping infractions at school.

H.8 (Drummond)
Effective June 1, 2025
- 2025-455**

Medical Age of Consent - Increases the age of medical consent from 14 to 16 years old and amends the existing requirement for local boards to annually notify parents and obtain written permission before providing mental health and counseling services to students, including counseling provided by a school guidance counselor. This consent will also apply to participation in school counseling services, which include suicide prevention and bullying. There are exceptions to ensure school counselors and healthcare providers can intervene in crisis situations or emergencies, such as: imminent threats to a minor's health; immediate grief counseling, and intervention due to suspected abuse, neglect or exploitation. It would also prohibit healthcare providers and governmental entities from denying parental access to a child's health record. ***Under current law, local boards already follow this process, including annual written notification to parents and guardians about relevant services provided in the school system.***

S.101 (Stutts)
Effective October 1, 2025

GENERAL BILLS, contd.

Military Friendly

2025-47 **Military Vaccine “Blue Card”** - amends existing law to allow dependents of active duty military personnel to substitute military medical records as evidence of age-appropriate immunization and testing in place of the “Blue Card” for presentation to a public school.

S.59 (Chesteen)
Effective July 1, 2025

Retirement System

2025-336 **TRS/ERS Retiree Funding Benefit** - Establishes a procedure for future cost-of-living adjustments (COLAs) for retired teachers and state employees that does not increase the unfunded liability for either the Teachers’ Retirement System (TRS) or the Employees’ Retirement System (ERS). Any COLA granted would require a separate legislative act specifying the class of eligible retirees and setting the amount of increase (to be paid from a corresponding appropriation in the ETF or General Fund). Should the Legislature decide and pursuant to available funding, commencing on November 4, 2026, only one retiree and beneficiary increase may be granted per legislative quadrennium (4 years).

H.158 (Clouse)
Effective October 1, 2026

Education Entities

2025-449 **STEM Council** - Establishes the Alabama Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Council within the Department of Workforce to advise on improving STEM education, career awareness and workforce development.

H.365 (Collins)
Effective October 1, 2025

LOCAL BILLS

2025-50 **Scottsboro City - Board of Education Elections** - Extends the terms of office of the Scottsboro City Board of Education for the purpose of revising the election dates for the general municipal election.

S.139 (Livingston)
Effective June 1, 2025

2025-364 **Geneva County - Superintendent** - Repeals existing law providing for the compensation of the Geneva City superintendent of education, which set the maximum salary at an index of 150% of the current minimum salary matrix.

S.345 (Chesteen)
Effective June 1, 2025

RESOLUTIONS

Resolutions express the will of the legislature but do not have the effect of law. Either chamber can adopt a general resolution, but both chambers must adopt a joint resolution which are then forwarded to the governor for signature and assigned an act number by the secretary of state.

2025-131 **Joint Interim Study Commission on Expanding Access to High Quality Out of School Educational Programs** - Creates a study commission to provide comprehensive recommendations to enhance afterschool and summer programming for the benefit of Alabama’s youth.

HJR 100 (Collins)

2025-242 **Purple Star Program and Committee** - In addition to public K-12 schools, allows private K-12 schools to be eligible to participate in the Purple Star Schools program

HJR 22 (Harrison)

Bills NOT Passed this Legislative Session

AASB tracks approximately 200 education-related bills each session, including resolutions and local legislation. While not every bill is mentioned in the *Advocate for Schools* newsletter, our governmental relations team keeps a close watch on all legislation identified as having an impact on K-12 education.

The following is a list of education-related legislation that **DID NOT PASS** during the 2025 Regular Session. Click on any highlighted bill number to view that piece of legislation

GENERAL BILLS, *not passed*

H.2 (Brown) - Vaccines for Minors - would require written consent of a parent or legal guardian for any minor to receive a vaccination, with exception.

H.4 (Mooney) - Libraries - would apply the state's criminal obscenity law to public libraries, public school libraries, and their employees.

H.9 (Hulsey) - Three-Cueing Literacy Instruction - would prohibit the use of the three-cueing teaching model that teaches students to read based on visual cues. This teaching model is not aligned with the science of reading requirements in the Alabama Literacy Act. ***Note: The SBOE adopted Administrative Code rule changes last May prohibiting this practice.***

H.32 (Tillman) - Semi-Monthly Pay - would allow for a semi-monthly pay plan for employees of local boards of education.

H.36 (England) - State SSUT Increase - would increase the state simplified sellers use tax (SSUT), also known as online sales tax, by 1.25% to be distributed to local boards of education on the basis of the average daily membership (ADM) of the preceding school year.

H.56 (Simpson) - Transfer Student Records - would prohibit any public or nonpublic school from refusing to transfer the records of a transferring student based on an unpaid balance due that school.

H.57 (Hulsey) - City BOE Land Purchase - would prohibit a city board from purchasing land outside the municipality without an agreement from the governing body where the land is located.

H.61 (DuBose) - CTE for Nonpublic School Students - would allow private and homeschool students to enroll in a public school CTE program as nontraditional students and would enable schools to receive ADM for these students.

H.67 (Stadthagen) - Drag Show Prohibition - would prohibit a public K-12 school library or public library from presenting or sponsoring a drag show with minors present without parental consent and would provide definitions in state law for "drag show" and "sex." The bill would require that a state department, agency, board, or commission operating or sponsoring an overnight program have parental consent for a minor to share multi-occupancy bathrooms, changing facilities, or sleeping quarters with a member of the opposite sex who is not a member of the child's family.

H.96 (Robertson) - National Signing Day - would require high schools to allow high school students participating in organized National Signing Day activities related to the acceptance of athletic scholarships, postsecondary school educational commitments, apprenticeship programs, and military enlistments to be excused from class and to provide reasonable accommodations for these activities.

H.136 (Collins) - Teacher DROP - would reopen participation in the Deferred Retirement Option Plan (DROP) program, which contractually allows a member of the Teacher's Retirement System (TRS) to continue employment with his or her employer for a specific period of time while deferring a portion of his or her retirement allowance until the end of the participation period, at which time the member withdraws from his or her service. It would allow certain Tier I and Tier II members to participate in DROP who had at least 30 years of creditable service, were at least 62 years old, and were eligible for retirement if they currently were or would be employed as a classroom teacher.

H.178 (Gidley) / S.166 (Kelley) - Ten Commandments - would require local boards in public K-12 school common areas to display the Ten Commandments and a historical context statement.

H.179 (Gidley) - School Chaplains - would authorize local boards to vote on whether to allow schools to accept as a volunteer a chaplain to provide support, services and programs at the request of any teacher in the school system, after passing a background check and showing credentials from a chaplaincy program.

GENERAL BILLS, *not passed*

H.197 (Faulkner) - Special Ed Dispute Resolution - would require notification of an allegation to the SDE that a local board has potentially violated the Individual With Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) before requesting an impartial due process hearing and would establish procedures for resolution.

H.201 (Almond) - Drones over Schools - would prohibit a person from operating an unmanned aircraft system (drone) within 500 horizontal feet or 200 vertical feet from a public school, without express permission, would prohibit the use of a drone to photograph or electronically record a public school.

H.231 (Ingram) - Pledge of Allegiance - a proposed constitutional amendment, which if approved by voters, would require all public K-12 schools begin the day with the Pledge of Allegiance and would require each local board, within 90 days of ratification of this amendment, to vote whether to adopt a policy allowing employees and students to voluntarily participate in daily prayer and reading of the Bible or other religious text. If a local board failed to hold the vote to adopt a policy within 90 days, the state superintendent could impose financial penalties.
Note: A state law passed in 2019 already mandates daily recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

H.232 (Baker) - Juvenile Court Notification - would require a juvenile court provide written notification to the local superintendent or principal of a private K-12 school if a student is charged with or adjudicated for certain serious crimes.

H.234 (Baker) - Panic Buttons - would require each local board to provide teachers and other school staff with wearable mobile emergency response technology by October 1, 2030, subject to the availability of annual dedicated school safety funds.

H.244 (Butler) - Don't Say Gay - would expand the existing prohibitions currently in K-5 schools regarding classroom discussions of gender identity or sexual orientation to pre-K-12th grade and prohibit the display of pride flags and insignia in the classroom.

H.246 (Stadthagen) - Pronouns - would prohibit public schools from using names or pronouns inconsistent with a student's legal name or biological sex without written permission from a student's parent or guardian.

H.247 (Standridge) - Gulf of America - would change all state references to the Gulf of Mexico to "Gulf of America" and requires all state and local entities and their employees to refer to the Gulf as the Gulf of America, use Gulf of America in all new documents and educational materials and make all reasonable efforts to update existing state resources to reflect the name change where practicable.

H.298 (Colvin) - ELL Athletics - would exclude all English Language Learner students from a school's headcount for Alabama High School Athletic Association (AHSAA) classification purposes, starting with the 2026-27 school year, unless the student participates in interscholastic athletics. It would also allow the legislature to appoint two members to the AHSAA Central Board of Control as non-voting members.

H.326 (Sellers) - Employee Leave for School Activities - would establish the Parental Right to Participate in Schools Act to permit employees who are parents or guardians of school-age children to take up to 48 hours of leave annually from employment to attend school-related activities.

H.332 (Faulkner) - Computer Science Courses - would add to state law a high-school level computer science credit as a graduation requirement and permits that credit to count as a CCRI, starting with the class of 2031. The bill also allows a student to take a course with an embedded computer science credit to satisfy the graduation requirement, though the embedded course will not count as a CCRI.

H.342 (DuBose) / S.278 (Shelnutt) - Religious Release Time Mandate - would mandate each local board of education to adopt a policy allowing students to participate in religious release time, changing the current 2019 current state law from permissive to mandatory.

H.344 (Collins) / S.215 (Chesteen) - SDE State Intervention - would authorize the state superintendent to summon witnesses and subpoena records during an educational intervention and return a local board to intervention within five years after a provisional release if determined that the local board has not satisfied the conditions of its release or is unable to properly oversee local school system operations.

H.356 (Woods) - Terrorist Threats - would require a public school principal to notify law enforcement if the conduct of a student warrants being charged with the crime of making a terrorist threat in the 1st or 2nd degree and requires the immediate one-year suspension of any student charged with this crime, expulsion of any student convicted and restitution paid to the local board for any costs incurred.

H.362 (Sells) - Recording Open Meetings - would require each school board to record open and public regularly scheduled business session meeting and to publish a recording of the meeting online within two business days.

GENERAL BILLS, not passed

H.438 (Drummond) - Education Transparency Board - would create a temporary board within the SDE and require an impact study be completed and final report published should the United States Department of Education (USDOE) budget be reduced by 20%.

H.447 (Garrett) - Local Board Transportation Policy - would repeal existing law requiring public school buses provide transportation to community college students and clarifies transportation is for enrolled K-12 students only.

H.489 (Gray) - High School NIL - would allow high school student athletes to receive compensation for the use of their name, image or likeness (NIL).

H.498 (Almond) - State Superintendent Subpoena - would authorize the state superintendent of education to issue subpoenas, summon witnesses to testify and appoint special investigators within the Office of General Counsel of the SDE as needed to help facilitate necessary investigations.

H.491 (Ingram) - Food Additives in Schools - would prohibit public K-12 schools from selling, allowing the sale of or providing food items containing certain additives.

H.559 (Kiel) - Local Board Mask Policy - would authorize local boards to enforce policies relating to masks worn during any protest, demonstration, or other public assembly on property owned by or under the control of the board. Law enforcement would be able to demand that people remove their face masks in public for identification.

H.560 (Givens) - School Board Library Policy - would require each local board of education adopt a policy prohibiting the possession, acquisition, or purchase of library materials after Oct. 1, 2025, that are harmful to minors, and require the local board to approve any materials before they are placed in the school library. It would also allow parents to access school library catalogs and the library records of their child. The bill would require each school board establish a 5-member local school library advisory council to recommend the acquisition of new and removal of challenged library materials. The bill would establish a mechanism for parents, employees, or any residents (regardless of whether they are parents of school children) to challenge the appropriateness of library materials.

H.582 (Butler) - Social Emotional Learning - would prohibit the use of social emotional learning for the training of teachers or the training, instruction or education of students, and would require parental consent before a student participates in school climate surveys. The bill's definition of "social-emotional learning" is wide in scope and would include any evidence-based or non-evidence-based programming that promotes school or civic engagement, or both, or builds an equitable learning framework that creates or uses evidence-based benchmarks, standards, surveys, activities, learning indicators, programs, policies, processes, professional development, or assessments that address noncognitive social factors including, but not limited to, self-awareness, self-management, relationship skills, responsible decision-making, or other attributes, dispositions, social skills, attitudes, behaviors, beliefs, feelings, emotions, mindsets, metacognitive learning skills, motivation, grit, self-regulation, tenacity, perseverance, resilience, or intrapersonal resources.

H.580 (Butler) - School Food Ban - would define and ban ultra processed foods at K-12 public schools participating in a federally funded or assisted meal program.

S.8 (Allen) - American History and Civics Excellence Initiative - would provide an online American History course of study for high school teachers for endorsement upon completion and one-time stipend.

S.13 (Allen) - Star Spangled Banner - a proposed statewide constitutional amendment which, if approved by voters, would require K-12 schools to broadcast/perform the Star Spangled Banner at least once during the school week and at school-sanctioned sporting events. This is the sixth session a similar bill has been filed.

S.34 (Smitherman) - Conflict Resolution Instruction - would require each local board of education to implement a violence prevention and conflict resolution program using a curriculum and/or framework of its choosing. Every student beginning with the freshmen in the 2026-27 year will have to complete the board's course or program prior to graduation. The SBOE would be charged with developing a list that local boards can choose from, and may develop rules as necessary for implementation.

S.85 (Orr) - Vaccine Exemption - would allow a parent to exempt a child from vaccination or disease testing requirements if the parent provides a written statement to the local board of education. It requires either documentation of a current physical exam or a written statement attesting to a sincerely-held religious belief accompany the notification.

S.205 (Smitherman) - Funding for Priority Schools - would make a supplemental ETF appropriation of \$78 million to allocate \$500,000 for each school identified as a priority school on the Fall 2024 State Report Card.

GENERAL BILLS, *not passed*

S.267 (Orr) - Charter School Finance Authority - would establish the Alabama Charter School Finance Authority to issue bonds to make financing loans for charter school capital projects.

S.270 (Weaver) - Local Sales and Use Taxes for School Boards - would redefine how sales tax revenues are distributed among school systems. *Note: While the proposed legislation would have statewide impact, it was specifically intended to address a local issue in Baldwin County to redistribute the county's tax proceeds to include Gulf Shores and Orange Beach.*

S.277 (Shelnutt) - Sex Ed Curriculum - would require any public K-12 sex education or human reproductive curriculum/program to exclusively teach sexual risk avoidance and encourage abstinence.

S.336 (Chambliss) - Conversion Charter School Systems - would have amended the Charter School Law to allow for a local board of education to establish a conversion public charter school district and convert existing schools to conversion charter schools. The bill would also provide for the local board of education to serve as the governing board of the conversion charter district.

S.343 (Allen) - School Technology Devices - would require each LEA to submit an annual report to the SDE about break/fix rates on public K-12 school technology devices, including, but not limited to, computers, tablets, interactive whiteboards, for the SDE to submit to the legislature.

LOCAL BILLS, *not passed*

S.135 (Elliot) - Baldwin County BOE - would allow any municipality within the county with a municipal school board, by resolution of the municipal governing body, to share in the proceeds of the special county privilege license tax and be entitled to receive a pro rata share of the portion of the proceeds of the tax distributed to the Baldwin County Board of Education, based upon the ADM for each of the local boards of education.

S.136 (Elliot) - Baldwin County BOE - would allow any municipality within the county with a municipal school board, by resolution of the municipal governing body, to share in the proceeds of the special county privilege license tax and be entitled to receive a pro rata share of the portion of the proceeds of the tax distributed to the Baldwin County Board of Education, based upon the amount of tax collected within the municipality's boundaries.

S.263 (Hatcher) - Montgomery County BOE - would propose a constitutional amendment, which, if approved by voters, would change terms from four to two years for members of the Montgomery County Board of Education.

H.274 (Sells) - Crenshaw County BOE - would propose a constitutional amendment, which, if approved by voters, would establish four-year terms for members of the Crenshaw County Board of Education.

S.333 (Smitherman) - Birmingham City BOE - would increase the monthly compensation of members of the Birmingham City Board of Education.

LEGISLATIVE QUADRENNIUM (2023-2026) - REGULAR SESSIONS

Began: March 7, 2023 / Ended: June 6, 2023

Began: February 6, 2024 / Ended: May 9, 2024

Began: February 4, 2025 / Ended: May 14, 2025

January 13, 2026

ADVOCATE FOR SCHOOLS ARCHIVES

During legislative sessions, AASB's Governmental Relations team provides members with our Advocate for Schools newsletter which includes a weekly update on education issues, legislation and policy. You can find copies of this session's newsletters as well as archived issues from previous sessions by [CLICKING HERE](#).

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