



TO SEE A LIST OF BILLS TRACKED BY AASB  
DURING THE 2023 REGULAR SESSION,  
CLICK ON BILL TRACKER BELOW:



### Did You Know?

To adjourn Sine Die translates to adjourning indefinitely or “without a day” for future action or meeting.

### AASB Advocate Special Edition

**Next Week:** AASB’s special edition is headed your way containing the 2023 enactments and bills that did not pass this session. The 2023 enactments provide Act numbers and a summary of all education-related general bills, local bills and resolutions.

### Legislative Session Recap Webinar

Now that Alabama’s 2023 Legislative Session is in the books, join AASB’s legislative team for a recap of session highs and lows.

**REGISTER HERE** for a free webinar to be held **Tuesday, June 27** from **noon to 1 p.m.**

Executive Director Sally Smith, Assistant Executive Director for Governmental Relations Bart Reeves and Governmental Relations Coordinator Tracey Meyer will discuss the education bills that did and did not pass, share the inside scoop on action from the final days of the session and answer your questions about bills that will impact your systems.

## Sine Die: It’s a Wrap for 2023 Regular Session

**The House and Senate concluded the 2023 Regular Session Tuesday without controversy. Both chambers applauded members for working in a bipartisan manner to efficiently handle legislation through this session.** Bills that could have caused a delay were kept off House and Senate Special Order Calendars on the final day, enabling lawmakers to conduct business and adjourn sine die long before the clock struck midnight —not a typical occurrence on the last day of most legislative sessions.

### No Light for SUN Vouchers

The Students With Unique Needs (SUN) school voucher bill was in line to be placed on a Senate Special Order Calendar the last day of the session. **H.334**, sponsored by **Rep. Danny Garrett**, would have provided students with unique needs, such as those with Individualized Education Plans (IEPs) and 504 accommodations, a \$6,500 voucher for their private school education.

While the fiscal note for SUN paled in comparison to the sweeping school voucher proposal in the Parents Rights In Childrens’ Education (PRICE) Act, opponents stressed to lawmakers the bill still would annually divert millions of public education dollars from the Education Trust Fund (ETF) for private school tuition. This session, Legislators had already passed a similar subsidy in the approved amendments to the Alabama Accountability Act (AAA). The revised AAA will now provide a \$10,000 private school scholarship for students with unique needs.

### AASB Advocacy in Action

**THANK YOU** for helping to stop the SUN school voucher bill from making it to the Senate floor during the final days of the session by contacting your senators. Your advocacy opposing this bill helped protect the ETF and prevent public education funds from subsidizing private tuition. **REMEMBER:** AASB’s efforts to support public education and protect the ETF are firmly anchored in the core values set forth by members. The positions

AASB takes are neither arbitrary nor biased. They are the direct result of a democratic process involving our members through our Delegate Assembly, resolutions process and annual surveys conducted at district meetings.

### First Grade Readiness: Not Ready Yet

**H.43**, **Rep. Pebblin Warren’s** bill that would require a child to successfully complete kindergarten or demonstrate first-grade readiness before enrolling in first grade did not make it across the finish line on the last legislative day—an outcome this bill has experienced since 2019.

Alabama does not mandate kindergarten, so a requirement for students to complete it prior to entering first grade was a sticking point for some lawmakers who want no such mandates. **Sen. Rodger Smitherman**, who has been a major opponent of the bill, once again threatened a final-day filibuster if it was placed on the Senate’s Special Order Calendar. **Smitherman** has repeatedly voiced concerns with this legislation, claiming not all students have access to kindergarten. He has been a staunch advocate for the Legislature to provide guaranteed funding for kindergarten, including new classrooms, transportation, teachers and student support. **Warren** said she is committed to working with **Smitherman** in the off season to hopefully come up with an agreed-upon bill to introduce next session.

### Session Closes on Open Records

**S.196**, a bill sponsored by Sen. Arthur Orr, did not pass during the session’s last day. This legislation proposed revising the process for soliciting and securing public records from public officials, including school boards. According to the **Alabama Reflector**, the Governor’s office and lawmakers failed to reach an agreement which thwarted the bill’s progress. AASB expects the bill to be back next session.