



FOR YOUR *information*

A MONTHLY UPDATE ON
STATE BOARD PROCEEDINGS,
ASSOCIATION NEWS &
K-12 TOPICS

Dec. 15, 2021



Education Leaders Share Plans to Address Math Proficiency, Teacher Shortages

Math achievement, teacher shortages and the new Career and Technical Education Course of Study were the focus of the Alabama State Board of Education's meeting and work session Thursday.

Alabama Math, Science, and Technology Initiative (AMSTI) Director Dr. Sandy Ledwell presented an update at the work session on how the ALSDE is supporting math proficiency. The board expressed concerns during last month's meeting with low math proficiency results on the ACAP.

State Superintendent of Education Dr. Eric Mackey said coaching is the key to improve math achievement and reminded the board about plans to increase the number of math coaches by 220 in K-5 schools, if approved in the FY23 budget request. The state currently has 145 elementary math coaches and 32 secondary coaches.

ALSDE Chief of Staff Chuck Marcum provided an update from the Teacher Preparation and Certification work group he is leading to address the teacher shortage. The group is tasked with exploring short- and long-term recommendations for educator preparation and certification to increase the number of teacher applicants in the state.

Other SBOE meeting and work session news included discussion on the Career and Technical Education Course of Study, passage of a resolution supporting local decision making related to COVID-19 protocols and the textbook law.

[Read Full Story](#)



January is School Board Member Recognition Month

In preparation for Alabama's annual observance of School Board Member Recognition Month in January, AASB is providing a toolkit with promotional materials for superintendents, school principals, chambers of commerce and other education supporters to use, complete with downloadable and customizable templates.

The 2022 theme is "Planting the Seeds of Success." A link to the online toolkit will be sent via email to all superintendents and board secretaries this week. Also, be sure to follow AASB on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) for posts and graphics you can share!

For more information, [email AASB's PR Department](#) or call 800-562-0601.



DELEGATE ASSEMBLY REPORT

AASB's 2021 Delegate Assembly, the association's annual business meeting, was held on Thursday, December 2 at the Hyatt Regency-Wynfrey Hotel in Hoover. After President Shannon Cauley delivered the President's Report to the Assembly, the Assembly took the following actions:

- Approved the 2020 Delegate Assembly Minutes;
- Adopted the Nominating Committee's Report naming Mary Hooks (Macon County) as President-Elect;
- Adopted the Bylaws Committee Report which regulates the Association's governance; and

- Adopted the Resolutions Committee Report which governs the Association's advocacy positions.

View the approved AASB [Bylaws](#) and [Resolutions](#) for 2022.



AASB Officers, New and Returning District Directors Installed

Lauderdale County school board member **Ronnie Owens** was installed as the association's new president during the closing session of the 2021 AASB Annual Convention in Birmingham on December 4.

Mary Hooks of the Macon County Board of Education was installed as the association's new president-elect. Additionally, several new directors were sworn in to begin two-year terms on AASB's 14-member Board of Directors, along with a new State Board of Education liaison who will serve a one-year term.

[Read More](#)



2021 All-State School Board Award Recipients Honored

AASB recognized recipients of the association's highest honor, the All-State School Board Member Award, during a special awards breakfast held as part of the annual AASB Convention.

Honorees included Kathy Landers of Talladega County, Chester Moore of Marengo County, Scott Suttle of St. Clair County, Matilda Woodyard of Tallapoosa County and James Woosley of Satsuma.

Since 1992, the All-State School Board Member recognition has recognized up to five of Alabama's most outstanding past or present school board members each year.

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Dr. Scott Harris Receives AASB Champion for Children Award

AASB presented State Health Officer Dr. Scott Harris with the association's highest honor, the 2021 Champion for Children Award, during the annual AASB Convention. The Champion for Children Award is given periodically to recognize those who exemplify extraordinary efforts to support Alabama's public schools and schoolchildren.

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Sen. Donnie Chesteen Honored with AASB Legislative Award

Alabama State Sen. Donnie Chesteen was honored with the 2021 AASB Legislative Award during the annual AASB Convention. This award is given to lawmakers who have demonstrated outstanding leadership on behalf of Alabama public schoolchildren and local boards of education.

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Join Us in Montgomery for New Board Member Orientation

AASB will hold New Board Member Orientation courses **Friday, Jan. 7** and **Saturday, Jan. 8** at the AASB office in Montgomery.

Orientation provides an excellent team-building experience for new school board members and superintendents who attend together. The courses also serve as an excellent refresher for veteran school board members.

AASB's two-part Orientation includes:

- **Roles & Responsibilities | Friday, Jan. 7 | 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.**
This course covers the nuts and bolts of education law, ethics, finance, effective board meetings and more. [REGISTER](#)
- **Effective Boards & Relationships | Saturday, Jan. 8 | 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.**

This course focuses on how members of the board relate with one another and how the board establishes and maintains relationships with the board attorney, community, policymakers and others to improve student learning. [REGISTER](#)

Board Member Spotlight: Danny Benjamin

Danny Benjamin has been a dedicated member of the Escambia County Board of Education for 33 years. A Baptist preacher, Danny has been in the ministry for 35 years. That's more than three decades working to make a difference in the lives of others, which is exactly what inspires him most. When he's not in the boardroom or the pulpit, you can find him hunting, fishing or restoring vintage cars. Read this month's Board Member Spotlight to learn more about Danny and his love for serving others.



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Just Ask Jayne

Board Approval for Voluntary Transfers or Suspensions?

Dear Jayne: If an employee voluntarily agrees to a transfer or a suspension, does it really need board approval? I'm hearing different answers.

[View Answer](#)



FCPA Report Deadline Jan. 31

Elected school board members and elected superintendents have until Jan. 31 to file their annual Fair Campaign Practices Act reports. The report, which details contributions to and expenditures by elected officials and candidates in 2021, is available through the Alabama Secretary of State's Office and local probate judges' offices and can be downloaded from the Secretary of State's website. In addition, anyone who ran for public office in 2021 and has not yet dissolved his or her election committee must file a report. Local officials should file with their probate judge; state officials file with the Secretary of State.

[Learn More](#)

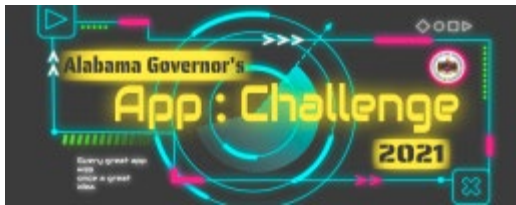


When Was the Last Time Your Board Evaluated the Superintendent?

The task of evaluating the superintendent can be easy to overlook amid the many responsibilities of a busy school board, the most effective boards make regular superintendent evaluation a strategic priority. Regular evaluations help your board clearly communicate expectations and goals to your chief executive and help ensure board members and the superintendent all are working toward the same goals.

AASB's [Superintendent Evaluation](#) service lends school boards a helping hand and removes the major headaches of conducting an evaluation. In addition, AASB offers a two-hour workshop covering the basics of evaluating superintendents as part of our evaluation service or as a standalone whole board training session. And adding value to your AASB membership, school boards have free access to research-based online superintendent evaluation instruments.

Contact us today at SuperintendentEvaluation@AlabamaSchoolBoards.org or call 800-562-0601 to learn more.



Governor's App Challenge Accepting Submissions

Student entry forms are due Jan. 14, 2022, for the Alabama Governor's App Challenge. The statewide computer programming competition is open to students in grades K-12. Cash prizes will be awarded to the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners in each grade band (Elementary: K-5; Middle School: 6-8; High School: 9-12). [Learn more.](#)

Nominate a Student for APT Young Heroes Award

Do you know a student in grades 9-12 who has excelled in academics, given of themselves in community service or overcome adversity? Alabama Public Television has an opportunity for them to be recognized and earn up to \$5,000 in scholarships through the Young Heroes Awards Program. The nominations deadline is Feb. 8, 2022. [Learn more.](#)



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