



FOR YOUR *information*

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

Dec. 15, 2023



SBOE Discusses Newly Released State and School A-F Report Cards

The State Board of Education discussed the newly released 2022-2023 State and School System A-F Report Cards Thursday, on which the state scored an 83% "B" grade.

Released Dec. 14, the state's 2022-2023 A-F Report Card grade of 83.44% (B) is a half-point decrease from last year's score of 84%. There was an uptick in academic achievement, a small increase in academic growth, a decline in the state's graduation rate, and no change in chronic absenteeism.

State Superintendent of Education Dr. Eric Mackey highlighted the increase in "A" schools from 203 to 262 and an overall decrease in the number of D-F "priority schools" from 219 to 206.

Other action and discussion topics from Thursday's board meeting and work session included public charter school authorizers, priority schools, state-required financial literacy and civics exams, mathematics summer learning progress and more.

[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 2024 theme is "**Cultivating Brilliance in Alabama Schools**," which also is nod to the 75-year "diamond" anniversary AASB will celebrate in 2024. A link to the online toolkit will be sent via email to all superintendents and board secretaries next 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](#).

You Could Win an Apple Watch for taking AASB's 2023-2024 Membership Survey



Please help AASB continue to improve the high-quality training, advocacy and services we provide by taking the 2023-24 Membership Survey. The survey questions are designed to gauge member satisfaction on AASB's communications, board services, training events and more.

Your opinions are important to us, and we want to hear from you!

The survey will take approximately 15 minutes of your time. You will have a chance at the end to enter in the drawing for an Apple Watch!

Take the Membership Survey

March Conference Registration is Open Now



Registration is open now for AASB's 2024 Spring Academy Core Conference, Leadership for Policy & Planning, which will be held Friday, March 1 and Saturday, March 2 at The Westin Huntsville.

Earn up to six training hours and hear from powerful speakers who will share how local school boards can implement future-focused plans and policies that raise student achievement. This conference highlights strategic planning, the latest education policy trends, effective use of technology and data-driven decision making.

[View Schedule-at-a-Glance.](#)

Featured sessions include:

- Artificial Intelligence
- Hot Policies Panel
- Chronic Absenteeism
- Innovation and the Future of Schools

Breakout Sessions: In addition, rotating breakout sessions will cover several timely and relevant policy and planning issues.

Plan Your Days: March Conference features the following events, each requiring separate registration:

- **Feb. 29:** [Alabama School of Cyber Technology & Engineering Tour](#) (1.5 hours)
- **March 1:** [Poverty Simulation](#) (\$59, 2.5 hrs)
- **March 1:** [Pre-Conference Workshop: Multiplying Success in Math](#) (\$79, 2 hrs)
- **March 1 & 2:** [Main Conference - Leadership for Policy & Planning](#) (\$209, 6 hrs)

Learn More

Start the New Year with AASB Training Opportunities



Friday, Jan. 5 & Saturday, Jan. 6

AASB's information-packed, two-part orientation helps new board members start strong and provides an excellent refresher for veteran board members.

Join us at AASB's Office in Montgomery Friday, Jan. 5 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. for [Roles & Responsibilities](#) (8 training hours) and Saturday, Jan. 6 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. for [Effective Boards & Relationships](#) (6 training hours).



Saturday, Feb. 10

If you're a current or aspiring board officer, you don't want to miss the [Board Officers Workshop](#) at AASB's Office in Montgomery Saturday, Feb. 10 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. (6 training hours).

This interactive workshop provides expert guidance on best practices for strengthening your leadership and communication skills as well as your facilitation techniques.

SAVE THE DATE: AASB 2024 Advocacy Days

Stay tuned for details and registration links for AASB's 2024 Legislative Advocacy Days. These events provide an opportunity to interact with state lawmakers and fulfill one of your most important responsibilities as a school board member -- advocating for your schools!

Mark your calendar now to join us at the State House for Advocacy Days:

- **Tuesday, Feb. 27:** AASB Districts 6, 7, 8, 9 & CSFOs
 - **Tuesday, April 2:** AASB Districts 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 & CSFOs
 - **Wednesday, April 17:** Legislative Committee Day (All AASB Districts)
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AASB Officers, New and Returning Directors Installed

Walker County school board member **Brad Ingle** was installed as the association's new president during the closing session of the 2023 AASB Annual Convention in Birmingham Dec. 2.

Geneva City Board of Education President **Russell Clausell** was installed as the association's new president-elect. Additionally, several new and returning directors were sworn in to begin two-year terms on AASB's 14-member Board of Directors.

[Learn More](#)



2023 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 luncheon held Dec. 1 as part of the annual AASB Convention.

Honorees included **Shannon Cauley**, formerly of the Baldwin County school board, **Jeffery Finch** of the Chambers County school board, **Oscar Mann** of the Jefferson County school board, **Claudia Mitchell** of the Montgomery County school board and **Sandra Tuck** of the Talladega County school board.

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.

Legacy, A-Team Advocacy Awards Presented at Convention



Brooks, Jenkins Honored with AASB Legacy Award

AASB presented [J.R. Brooks](#), a veteran north Alabama attorney who has represented more than 15 boards of education in the state, and [Dr. Terry Jenkins](#), a career educator and former Auburn City Schools superintendent, with its prestigious Legacy Award. The award recognizes visionary leadership in k-12 education and exemplary contributions to the association and to local school boards.



Deramus-Coleman, Kelley Receive Inaugural Advocacy Award

AASB honored Brenda Deramus-Coleman (Montgomery County BOE) and Craig Kelley (Hoover City BOE) with its inaugural [A-Team Advocacy Award](#), which recognizes members who successfully engage in legislative and policy advocacy in their school board service. AASB Executive Director Sally Smith said the two honorees have "gone above and beyond to elevate the voices of Alabama's local school boards."



DELEGATE ASSEMBLY REPORT

AASB's 2023 Delegate Assembly was held Thursday, Nov. 30 at the Birmingham Sheraton Hotel. After AASB President Mary Owens delivered the President's Report, the Assembly took the following actions:

- Approved the 2022 Delegate Assembly Minutes;
- Adopted the Nominating Committee's Report naming Russell Clausell (Geneva city) as President-Elect;
- Adopted the Bylaws Committee Report which regulates governance of the Association; and
- Adopted the Resolutions Committee Report which governs the advocacy positions of the Association.

Delegate Assembly is AASB's annual business meeting. View the approved AASB



Give the Gift of AASB Swag!

Shopping for holiday or Board Member Recognition Month gifts? Our new online store features a wide variety of AASB-branded items to show off your Alabama school boards spirit!

From shirts and outerwear to bags and drinkware, there's something for everyone.

Items are embroidered/decorated when the order is placed. Orders typically take 12-15 business days to ship.

[Visit the Store](#)

BOARD MEMBER *Spotlight*
Meet Larry Merriweather
Midfield City Board of Education

Q: What piece of advice would you share with an incoming board member?
A: — “ —

Learn to be a good listener, keep an open mind and be understandable when you make a decision.

” —

ALABAMA SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION

Board Member Spotlight: Larry Merriweather

Larry Merriweather has served on the Midfield City Board of Education since 2014 and currently serves as board vice president.

Retired from a 38-year career as a Department of Corrections officer, Larry was motivated to join the school board because he believed he could help make a difference in Midfield City Schools, which had recently been released from state intervention (2013).

Larry, who describes himself as "firm, but fair," said board members should be prepared to be good listeners, keep open minds and to learn from students and employees.

[Read More](#)



Just Ask Jayne

Can Interim Superintendent Apply to Fill Permanent Position?

Dear Jayne:

Our board has appointed an interim superintendent and we're working on next steps to fill the permanent position. There is a debate about whether our interim superintendent is a good candidate to become the next superintendent. Some board members think she's not allowed to apply and others think she is. We're at an impasse. Is it against the law for the interim superintendent to apply?

[View Answer](#)

Job Vacancies

- [Superintendent of Gadsden City Schools](#)
- [CSFO of Henry County Schools](#)
- [CSFO of Talladega City Schools](#)



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