



Jan. 10, 2025



State's New Career Simulator Truck to Bring Technical Training to Rural, Underserved Schools

The Alabama State Board of Education has unveiled plans for a mobile Career & Technical Training hub – an 18-wheeler equipped with virtual reality and simulation technology. Announced during the SBOE's Thursday work session, the specialized truck will allow students to experience various career paths firsthand, from advanced manufacturing to underwater welding, with a strategic focus on serving schools with limited access to traditional CTE programs.

Set for full deployment in the 2025-26 school year, this initiative will connect students with high-demand career opportunities while working alongside local industry partners.

In other news from the SBOE's January meeting and work session, the board bid farewell to two departing members, including:

- **Stephanie Bell** (District 3) concluded her tenure as the longest-serving state board of education member in both Alabama history and nationally, having served since 1994.
- **Belinda McRae** (District 7) also was recognized for her four years of service on the SBOE and for her previous role as the first woman to serve on the Marion County Board of Education.

New SBOE members Kelley Mooney and Allen Long will be sworn in later this month during the board's retreat.

Other key issues discussed Thursday included the board announcing its intent to change the Alabama Administrative Code pertaining to teacher preparation programs, plans to update digital K-12 literacy standards, and the announcement of the Legislative School Performance Recognition Program, which will distribute \$250,000 in stipends to high-performing and most-improved schools across the state.

[Read Full Story](#)



Elevate Your School Board's Financial Leadership and Much More at AASB's Spring Conference

Registration is underway for AASB's **Spring Academy Core Conference: Leadership for Financial Accountability**, which will be held Feb. 28 - March 1, 2025, at the Marriott Shoals Hotel & Spa in Florence, Ala. What you'll gain:

- Proven strategies to align your school system's budget with your mission and student achievement goals
- Real-world insights from leading school finance experts
- 6 training hours in AASB's School Board Member Academy

HOW TO REGISTER: As we transition to a new and improved membership database and event registration system, all registrations are being handled by board secretaries. To register for the main conference or any of the exclusive pre-conference sessions listed below, **contact your board secretary or AASB.**

Extend Your Learning with these March Pre-Conference Sessions

Essential Training for Board-Superintendent Teams: Leading for Educational Equity ***

WHAT: Leading for Educational Equity Workshop | 6 training hours | \$150

WHEN: Thursday, Feb. 27, 3 to 6:15 p.m. & Friday, Feb. 28, 8 to 11:15 a.m.

WHY: Ensuring that every child in your school system has the opportunity to succeed takes hard work and a strong commitment by the board-superintendent team. AASB's Leading for Educational Equity workshop helps boards explore what it takes to give every student a fair chance at success. Engage in hands-on activities and meaningful discussions, examine your current practices and leave with concrete tools and action plans to create more equitable schools!

ADDED BONUS: *** Full board-superintendent teams who attend the Leading for Educational Equity Workshop will satisfy the annual whole board training requirement for 2024-2025!

When Survival Comes Before Learning: Poverty Simulation

WHAT: Poverty Simulation Workshop | 2.5 training hours | \$59

WHEN: Friday, Feb. 28 | 9 to 11:30 a.m.

WHY: Alabama has the sixth highest poverty rate in the nation. Experience firsthand what your students and families face through this powerful simulation and discover ways to better serve every child in your school system.

NOTE: Completion of the Poverty Simulation fulfills one of the criteria to reach the coveted Master Honor Roll level in AASB's School Board Member Academy.

Safeguarding Schools From Cyber & Physical Security Threats

WHAT: Digital & Physical Security Early Bird Workshop | 2 training hours | \$79

WHEN: Friday, Feb. 28 | 1 to 3 p.m.

WHY: This vital workshop tackles some of today's most pressing school security challenges, from tech-enabled threats to coordinated disruptions. Learn more about response protocols and communication strategies that protect your schools when every minute counts.

CONTACT YOUR BOARD SECRETARY OR AASB TO REGISTER TODAY!



Hot Off the Press: 2025 School System Snapshots Online

AASB's 2025 School System Snapshots are now available online. This informative tool provides an individualized look at each Alabama school system's state and local resources -- funding and spending -- and serves as a great starting point for funding discussions with elected officials and stakeholders.

[View Your System Snapshot](#)



Board Member Orientations Rescheduled Due to Weather

If you're new to your board ready to find your path through the complex new world of school board service, you still have time to sign up for AASB's New Board Member Orientations.

IMPORTANT UPDATE: Due to weather, the original dates of Jan. 10 & 11 have been rescheduled to Jan. 31 and Feb. 1.

Part 1: Roles & Responsibilities

Friday, Jan. 31 | 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. | Embassy Suites Montgomery

Navigate your way through the twists and turns of education law, school finance, ethics and effective board meetings. School Board Members

COST: \$140, Superintendents \$115 (*8 training hours*)

Part 2: Effective Boards & Relationships

Saturday, Feb. 1 | 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. | Embassy Suites Montgomery

Master the intricate pathways of board relationships, community connections and productive partnerships with stakeholders and policymakers. School Board Members

COST: \$120, Superintendents \$95 (*6 training hours*)

NOTE: The state of Alabama requires all local school board members to complete orientation. By taking both parts of AASB's orientation, members not only meet the orientation requirement, but also the state ethics training requirement.

Contact [Joy Brownell](#) at AASB or your board secretary to register.



Happy School Board Member Recognition Month!

This month and every month, we are thankful for your commitment to **"Building Tomorrow's Future"** through your service as a school board member!

We've enjoyed seeing all the posts and photos from your celebrations on social media and on your websites. Keep them coming!

Be sure to [check out our online toolkit](#) featuring a variety of graphics, ideas and resources that make it easy for your schools and communities take part in this annual observance. You also can follow AASB on Facebook and X for posts and graphics you can share!

For more information, [email AASB's PR Department](#).



COSSBA National Conference Early Bird Registration ends Today

You still have time to register at a discounted rate for the Consortium of State School Boards Associations' (COSSBA) National Conference, which will be held **March 21-23, 2025**, in Atlanta.

Attendees will have the opportunity to explore the latest trends and best practices in conference tracks on topics such as finance, governance, school safety, mental health, stakeholder engagement, student achievement, and artificial intelligence's transformative potential.

The Conference "early-bird" registration rate for the main conference as well as the Unified Boards Alliance Pre-Conference has been extended through today.

Early-Bird Registration Rate until January 10, 2025:

- Unified Boards Alliance Pre-Conference + Main COSSBA - \$950.00
- Main Conference Only - \$675.00

General Registration after January 10, 2025:

- Unified Boards Alliance Pre-Conference + Main Conference - \$995.00
- Main COSSBA Conference Only - \$775.00

(Non COSSBA Members Conference Only - \$825.00)

[Register Now](#)

Important Reminders & Deadlines



FCPA Remiinder: Deadline Jan. 31

Elected school board members and elected superintendents have until Jan. 31 to file their annual Fair Campaign Practices Act reports. [Visit the Alabama Secretary of State's website](#) for more information or to download the report.



Wanted: Committee Volunteers

We're seeking volunteers to serve on AASB committees. Incoming committee members will be appointed for one-year terms. Committees include: Advocacy, Board Training Advisory, Bylaws, Resolutions, Equity and Nominating Committees. [Learn more.](#)



New Board Members: Ethics Training Deadline

DID YOU KNOW?

New board members must take ethics training within 120 days of taking office. Taking AASB's Roles & Responsibilities orientation course -- next offered in person Friday, Jan. 31, and also available online -- fulfills this requirement. You also can complete the Alabama [Ethics Commission training video](#).



Winners Announced for Board Secretary Drawing

Three lucky board secretaries will receive \$50 gift cards as winners of AASB's drawing for boards that completed their AASB-led Whole Board Training in October, November or December. The winners are:

- **Tammie Brand** – Athens City Schools
- **Jennifer Springer** – Decatur City Schools
- **Lori Woolfolk** – Muscle Shoals City Schools

One More Chance to Win: Secretaries of boards that schedule and complete an AASB-led Whole Board Training in January, February or March still have a chance to win one of three \$50 gift cards in the final drawing for 2024-2025!

Ready to Mark Whole Board Training off your to-do List?

Browse AASB's [Whole Board Training brochure](#) for a list of more than 30 interactive courses developed to meet your board's needs and fulfill the two-hour, state-mandated Whole Board Training requirement.

For more information, contact Leadership Development Coordinator **Candi Longnecker** at clongnecker@alabamaschoolboards.org or call 800-562-0601.



MONROE COUNTY SCHOOLS

SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH

APPLY BY JAN. 24

APPLY: <https://bit.ly/monroe-co-supt>

Vacancy: Superintendent of Monroe County Schools

Monroe County Schools is seeking a leader with a demonstrated ability to raise achievement scores and connect with the community to serve as the system's next superintendent!

The salary range is between \$145,000 to \$175,000, based on experience and a proven track record.

This search is being conducted by the Alabama Association of School Boards.
Application deadline: Jan. 24, 2025.

[Learn More/Apply.](#)



AASB Announces Finalists in Selma City Schools Superintendent Search

Following a three-month search process led by the Alabama Association of School Boards, **five finalists have been named** as candidates for the Selma City Board of Education's superintendent vacancy. The finalists, narrowed down from a pool of about 30 candidates.



Shop the AASB Store!

AlabamaSchoolBoards.LogoWearCompany.com



Alabama Association of School Boards
 43 South Jackson Street
 Montgomery, AL 36104
 800-562-0601

