



**Jan. 12, 2024**



### **SBOE Reviews Process to Notify Parents of School Choice Options for Priority Schools, Discusses Cell Phone Usage Resolution**

The State Board of Education Thursday discussed the requirements and process for local systems notifying parents/ guardians of their options for students assigned to or zoned to a priority school, pursuant to the Alabama Accountability Act as amended in 2023 ([Act 2023-418](#)).

The 2022-2023 state report card identifies 206 priority schools (school grade D or F).

Pursuant to the Alabama Accountability Act, students assigned to or currently enrolled in priority schools have four school choice options for the 2024-2025 school year (read full story for details).

Local systems have until Jan. 16, 2024, to notify parents/guardians of their options and parents/guardians have until March 1, 2024, to make their decision. Systems will report this information to the ALSDE.

Thursday's work session included discussion of a draft resolution strongly encouraging local boards of education to adopt policies limiting student use of cell phones and other electronic devices while on school property. The board also received an update on the upcoming legislative session and recommended ETF for FY25.

[Read Full Story](#)



## Single Sessions Back for Summer Conference; Registration Opens Jan. 25

Mark your calendar! **Registration opens Thursday, Jan. 25** for the annual AASB Summer Conference which will be held at the Lodge at Gulf State Park in Gulf Shores June 28-30.

### You Asked; We Heard!

**We're going back to single sessions** for Summer Conference, which means attendees no longer need to choose between a morning or afternoon track. **NOTE:** To earn the full 7 hours of training credit, attendees must scan in for the general sessions **Friday, June 28, Saturday, June 29 and Sunday, June 30.**

This event will be full of learning and networking as well as motivating sessions that will inspire you to reflect upon this year's Summer Conference theme: "*Remember Your Why!*"

[AlabamaSchoolBoards.org/SummerConference](https://AlabamaSchoolBoards.org/SummerConference)

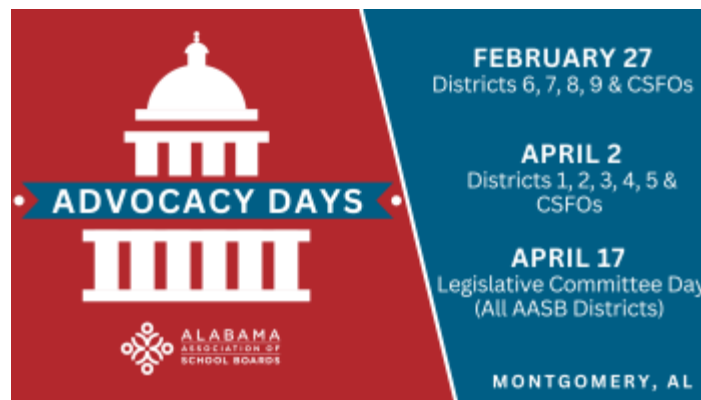
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## 2024 School System Snapshots Available Online

AASB's 2024 School System Snapshots are now available on our website. This informative tool provides an individualized look at each Alabama school system's state and local resources -- funding and spending. The resource also serves as a great starting point in advocacy and funding discussions with elected officials and stakeholders.

[Download Your Snapshot](#)



## 2024 AASB Advocacy Days: Vouchers are Back; Your Presence is Vital!

Lawmakers will gavel in the 2024 legislative session Feb. 6. With several voucher bills slated to be filed, protecting public education and public education funding is AASB's #1 priority. ([View our Legislative & Policy Agenda.](#))

We need all hands on deck, and AASB's Advocacy Days are an effective way for the collective voice of local boards of education to be heard.

**Please register now for one or more of the following Advocacy Days:**

**Tuesday, Feb. 27:** AASB Districts 6, 7, 8, 9 & CSFOs | [REGISTER](#)

Tuesday, April 2: AASB Districts 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 & CSFOs | [REGISTER](#)

Wednesday, April 17: NEW - Legislative Committee Day (All Districts) | [REGISTER](#)

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## Happy School Board Member Recognition Month!

This School Board Member Recognition Month, we are thankful for your dedication to **"Cultivating Brilliance in Alabama Schools."**

We've enjoyed seeing all the posts and photos from your celebrations on social media. 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](#).



### Our Gift to You: AASB 75th Anniversary Lapel Pin

AASB is excited to kick off a special year of celebration as we mark the association's 75th "Diamond" Anniversary. Be on the lookout this month for your commemorative anniversary lapel pin which will be mailed to your board office. We're asking members to wear their pins to AASB events throughout the year to help us commemorate being *"A Cut Above in Service to School Boards Since 1949."*

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## Learn More About Artificial Intelligence (A.I.) and its Impact on Education at March Conference





There's still time to register 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. [View Schedule-at-a-Glance.](#)

You'll hear the latest information on Artificial Intelligence from education and technology thought leaders. Other powerful speakers will share how local school boards can implement future-focused strategic plans, the latest education policy trends, effective use of technology and data-driven decision making.

**Featured sessions include:** Artificial Intelligence; Hot Policies Panel; Chronic Absenteeism; and 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](#)

## Important Reminders & Deadlines



### FCPA Reminder: Deadline Jan. 31

Elected school board members and elected superintendents have until Jan. 31 to file their annual Fair Campaign Practices



### WANTED: AASB Committee Volunteers

We're seeking volunteers to serve on AASB committees. Incoming committee members will be appointed for one-year



### New Board Members: Ethics Training Deadline

**DID YOU KNOW?** Board members must take ethics training within 120 days of taking office. Taking AASB's Roles &

Acts reports. [Visit the Alabama Secretary of State's website](#) for more information or to download the report.

terms. Committees include: Advocacy, Board Training Advisory, Bylaws, Equity, Nominating and Resolutions Committees. [Learn more.](#)

Responsibilities course in person or online fulfills this requirement. You also can complete the [Alabama Ethics Commission training video](#).



## AASB Membership Survey: You Could Win an Apple Watch!

If you haven't already taken AASB's 2023-2024 Membership Survey, you still have time before the survey closes Jan. 31.

Your responses to questions gauging member satisfaction on AASB's communications, board services, training events and more will help us continue to improve the high-quality training, advocacy and services we provide.

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 SURVEY](#)

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## February Training Opportunities You'll Love



### Friday, Feb. 1 | WEBINAR: School Ransomware Case Study

School systems hold a vast amount of sensitive data. Protecting this data from cyber criminals is critical in safeguarding privacy and maintaining the system's integrity.

Join us Thursday, Feb. 1 from noon to 1 p.m. for our next webinar, "**Prevention, Response & Recovery: A School Ransomware Attack Case Study**", which will walk us through the real-life case of the Jefferson County Schools



### Saturday, Feb. 10 | Board Officers Workshop

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).

Geared to current or aspiring school board officers, this interactive workshop provides expert guidance on best practices for strengthening your leadership and communication skills as well as your facilitation techniques.

ransomware attack in 2023.  
[REGISTER.](#)

[REGISTER.](#)



## COSSBA Annual Conference in Dallas, Texas | Feb. 22 - 25

You still have time to register for COSSBA's annual conference which will be held Feb. 22-25 in Dallas. The event will feature ample learning opportunities, inspiring keynote speakers, and dedicated times for member networking with fellow school board members from across the country. Members may earn up to three hours of credit for attending. [REGISTER.](#)

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### WHAT'S NEW: AASB LinkedIn, Online Store



#### Connect with Us on LinkedIn

Have you heard? AASB is now on LinkedIn. Follow our LinkedIn page and help us continue to expand our public education network!

We'll be sharing relevant education news, organization updates, job postings and more. Give us a shout out and let us know you've found us!

[Follow Us](#)



#### Show Off Your AASB Spirit

The new AASB online store features a wide variety of 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.

[Shop Now](#)

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### Board Member Spotlight: Dr. Mary Harrington

**Mary Harrington** has served on the Anniston City Board of Education since 2008 and currently serves as board vice president.

A veteran educator who was part of the first generation in her family to attend college, Mary credits much of her



academic and professional success to caring teachers who would not let her fall through the cracks.

Mary believes education is the best chance of improving our citizenry for good. She was inspired to serve on the school board because of a desire to see all students have an opportunity to experience a quality education.

[Read More](#)



**Just  
Ask  
Jayne**

## Parent Asks to Address Board in Executive Session

Dear Jayne:

I'm board president and we have a problem. A parent has asked to address the board in executive session on a matter related to his child. Is this allowed? If so, is it required?

[View Answer](#)





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