



FOR YOUR *information*

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

March 10, 2023



SBOE Adopts K-3 ELA Textbook Recommendations

The State Board of Education voted 7-1 for a resolution approving the recommendations of the State Textbook Committee for K-3 English Language Arts (ELA) textbooks, with Stephanie Bell (District 3) voting against.

The SBOE's approval of the K-3 ELA textbook recommendations means there are now two state-approved core reading curricula options that meet requirements of the Alabama Literacy Act available to school systems. Local systems can now begin the process of local textbook review and adoption.

Other key board meeting action included adoption of new Alabama Administrative Code rules pertaining to first-grade readiness and alternative teacher preparation organizations.

Work session discussion include concerns related to summer reading camps and the possibility of exploring a switch from the ACT administered to all students back to a graduation exit exam.

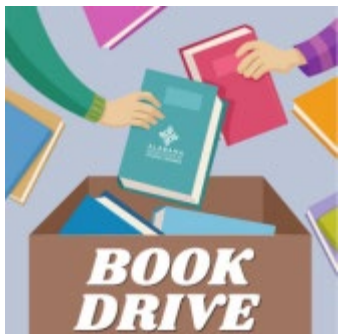
[Read Full Story](#)



'Ignite' Your Leadership at AASB Summer Conference

There's still time to register for this year's AASB Summer Conference June 16-18 at the Lodge at Gulf State Park in Gulf Shores. You don't want to miss this opportunity to ignite your leadership with a mix of motivational, inspirational sessions and practical information you can use at the board table.

- **Afternoon Schedule Track | June 16 & 17:** While the Friday and Saturday morning schedule track (breakfast is included) is full, there are still some available slots in the afternoon schedule track (lunch is included). Both tracks feature the same great speakers and session topics. [REGISTER](#)
- **Bonus Sunday Session | June 18:** Get fired up and ready to innovate and imagine during Sunday's bonus session. You'll hear a powerful message from former All-American University of Alabama football player, retired NFL player and current Tampa Bay Buccaneers Defensive Assistant Rashad Johnson. This session is open to all attendees (registration required). Breakfast is included. [REGISTER](#)



Summer Conference Book Drive

We're excited to announce our Second Annual Summer Conference Book Drive! We're asking Summer Conference attendees to donate new or like-new books to help promote literacy and combat the "summer slide" for students at all grade levels.

See below to find out what grade level books your district is asked to provide, and drop off your donation at the AASB Summer Conference.

- **AASB Districts 1, 2 & 3:** Please donate books for grades K-5.
- **AASB Districts 4, 5 & 6:** Please donate books for grades 6-8.

- **AASB Districts 7, 8 & 9:** Please donate books for grades 9-12.

[View Conference Agenda, Speakers & More](#)



REMINDER: Time Is Running Out to Schedule Your Whole Board Training

Only three months remain in the 2022-2023 training year which ends June 30. If your board has not yet completed or scheduled its state-mandated two-hour Whole Board Training session, now is the time to get on the calendar! Slots are filling quickly, so contact us today!

How to Schedule Your Whole Board Training

- **STEP 1:** [Browse AASB's Whole Board Training Catalog](#) to choose from more than 40 available training topics, or contact us to discuss a custom option.
- **STEP 2:** Pick a first choice topic and a second choice topic.
- **STEP 3:** Send AASB 2 or 3 dates and times that ALL your board members can be available to attend the training and the training location (email Executive Assistant for Leadership Development Stephanie Bell at sbell@AlabamaSchoolBoards.org).

Questions? Please contact Stephanie Bell at sbell@AlabamaSchoolBoards.org or 334-277-9700.



Join Us in the State Capital for AASB Advocacy Days

School board members, superintendents and CSFOs are invited to join us in Montgomery for AASB's 2023 Advocacy Days. Don't miss this opportunity to meet with local your legislators to discuss key public education issues and to share with and learn from school board colleagues from across the state.

NEW FOR 2023: Designated Date for New Board Members or First-Time Advocacy Attendees

We're excited to announce a designated date (May 2) for new board members (in office less than two years) or board members who have never attended an Advocacy Day. Our experienced staff will cover all the nuts and bolts of Alabama's legislative process as well as important grassroots advocacy tips and strategies.

- **APRIL 4** | Districts 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5 | [REGISTER](#)
- **APRIL 18** | Districts 6, 7, 8, 9 & 10 | [REGISTER](#)
- **MAY 2** | New School Board Members / First-Time Attendees | [REGISTER](#)

NOTE: Although we've designated special dates for each district and for new school board members or first-time attendees, members may sign up to participate on any of the above dates.

[Get Additional Details](#)



SAVE THE DATE: Upcoming AASB Webinars

Be on the lookout soon for registration links to sign up for the final two AASB webinars of the 2022-2023 training year.

- **Thursday, April 20 | Noon to 1 p.m.** - Building Relationships with Local Leaders
- **Thursday, May 4 | Noon to 1 p.m.** - Common Audit Mistakes

[View More AASB Events](#)



Board Member Spotlight: Rhonda Smith

As a dyslexia consultant/certified academic language therapist and dyslexia instructor, **Rhonda Smith** says education has always been a part of her life.

Rhonda, who also serves as AASB's representative on the statewide Literacy Task Force, joined the Boaz City school board in 2014 as a way to give back to her community.

One of her proudest accomplishments as a board member has been working to connect students to a wider variety of extracurricular and academic enrichment opportunities.

When she's not at the board table or working with her students, you'll find Rhonda reading, enjoying the beach or poolside and Alabama football.

[Read More](#)



Just Ask Jayne

Are New Board Members Required to File Statement of Economic Interest Forms?

Dear Jayne:

I'm a new board member who was elected in November 2022. I know that the Statement of Economic Interests will be due this spring. Since I just took office, will I have to file that form?

[View Answer](#)



AASB Executive Director Named 'Women Who Shape the State' Nominee

AASB Executive Director Sally Smith has been honored as one of This is Alabama's Women Who Shape the State 2023. Sally is one of 25 women from various professional backgrounds recognized for outstanding contributions to their communities.

Please join us in congratulating Sally on this prestigious honor and for the tremendous impact of her leadership and advocacy for Alabama's local boards of education!

[Learn More](#)



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