



**March 14, 2025**



## **State Board Approves Dallas County Schools Intervention, Discusses Changes at USDOE**

The Alabama State Board of Education (SBOE) voted unanimously Thursday to approve state intervention into Dallas County Schools due to financial management concerns. This makes Dallas County the third Alabama school system under state intervention, alongside Sumter County and Bessemer City Schools. Dr. Daniel Boyd will serve as chief academic officer for Dallas County Schools, the same role he holds in Bessemer City.

In legislative updates, the Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE) is pursuing legislation to expand the state's intervention authority, including a five-year provisional release period. The Board also approved comprehensive changes to the Educator Preparation Programs chapter of the Administrative Code to align with the Alabama Numeracy Act and increase field experience for teacher candidates.

Superintendent Eric Mackey provided an update on the U.S. Department of Education's recent staff cuts of approximately 1,300 employees, though no program cuts have been announced and Alabama's federal education funding remains unaffected. About 10% of Alabama's K-12 education funding comes from federal sources, primarily for special education and Title programs.

In other board news, Jefferson County Schools Superintendent Walter Gonsoulin will be formally recognized as the National Superintendent of the Year at the SBOE's April 10 meeting. He is the first Alabama superintendent to receive this honor. The SBOE also discussed the renewal of Superintendent Mackey's contract for another four years through 2029.

[Read Full Story](#)



## More than 500 Already Registered for Summer Conference

The countdown is on to AASB's annual Summer Conference taking place **June 20 - 22 at the Lodge at Gulf State Park**. This event will be packed with learning and networking as well as motivating sessions to help you "Rock Your Leadership" as a school board member. Registration remains open for both the School Law Clinic pre-conference session and for the main conference.

### Come Early for School Law Clinic: Friday, June 20 | 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Join us for this early bird session featuring school board attorneys and legal experts who will share timely guidance on some of the most pressing legal and policy issues for Alabama's school boards. **\$159 ( lunch included) | 3.5 training hours**

### Summer Conference: Friday, June 20 to Sunday, June 22

You won't want to miss this year's dynamic keynote speakers: **Hamish Brewer**, known as "the relentless principal" who transformed some of the nation's toughest schools, and **Dr. Jim Johnson**, a renowned UNC demographer whose groundbreaking research on population shifts and economic trends helps education leaders prepare for tomorrow's challenges. **\$349 | up to 7 training hours**

**Rock Star Keynote Speakers!**



**Hamish Brewer**  
*One More Round: Leadership Unplugged*



**Dr. Jim Johnson**  
*Education Alert: Chart-breaking Trends Ahead*

Visit [AlabamaSchoolBoards.org/SummerConference](https://AlabamaSchoolBoards.org/SummerConference) for full details

**REGISTRATION:** Contact Your Board Secretary or AASB



**Advocacy 2025: Exclusive Opportunity to Attend  
Legislative Committee Days**

This year, all AASB Advocacy Days will be held on legislative committee days, offering attendees an insider's glimpse of this key phase of the legislative process.

Begin your day at the AASB office at 8 a.m. with light refreshments before heading to the State House. You'll observe lawmakers discussing education-related bills, witness critical policy discussions unfold, and gain valuable perspective on how education priorities are debated and shaped before reaching the chamber floor. Lunch will be provided. This is an all-day event.

## Registration

Although Advocacy Days are free events, registration is required via the online registration form linked beside each date below. Register early — space is extremely limited, and registration will close once capacity is reached. Attendees will earn two hours of training credit for Advocacy Day participation.

- **April 9** - CAPACITY REACHED, REGISTRATION CLOSED
- **April 16** - LIMITED SPOTS REMAINING: [\*\*REGISTER NOW\*\*](#)
- **April 30** - [\*\*REGISTER NOW\*\*](#)

## Cancellations

- All cancellation requests must be submitted in writing to AASB Governmental Relations Coordinator Tracey Meyer by email at [tmeyer@alabamaschoolboards.org](mailto:tmeyer@alabamaschoolboards.org), or call 334-277-9700.
- **PLEASE NOTE:** A \$25 fee will be charged for event no-shows who have not cancelled their registration.

*Participation fulfills the Advocacy Day requirement for the Master Honor Roll designation.*



## Supporting Military Students: What School Boards Need to Know

In recognition of April as Military Student Month, AASB will host a webinar offering strategies to support military children who often move six to nine times throughout their K-12 education. Join us April 17 from noon to 1 p.m. to learn how your school system can better address the unique challenges faced by military students and their families.



**Rachel Surles** from the [Military Child Education Coalition](#) will share practical resources and discuss "Student 2 Student" programs designed to help military students thrive despite frequent transitions.

**Cost: \$55 individual | \$210 group | Earn 1 training hour**

**REGISTRATION: Contact Your Board Secretary**



### **School Board U: Earn Hours from Home**

Need to get your hours prior to the June 30 deadline? In addition to the 2025 Summer Conference, upcoming webinars and Advocacy events, there are numerous offerings available in AASB's electronic learning platform, School Board U!

Need to complete your required hours before June 30? In addition to the 2025 Summer Conference, upcoming webinars and Advocacy events, we offer multiple ways to fulfill your requirements through AASB's electronic learning platform, School Board U!

This self-paced, online leadership development portal that gives you access to board training materials, courses and resources to grow skills and improve school board effectiveness. All core courses within AASB's School Board Member Academy are available in School Board U, as well as a host of electives and archived webinars. Courses range from 30 minutes to 8 hours, and several options are free!

Questions about registering for online courses? [Email Ava Cranmore](#), AASB Assistant Director of Leadership Development, or call 800-562-0601.

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## Share Your School System's Policy Links with AASB

AASB's free online Policy Links provide direct access to school systems' online policy manuals.

Curious about what other boards have in policy? Want to know what format other school systems are using to share their policies with their community? Just browse through the links.

You can help us keep the Policy Links service up to date by sharing the link your school system's online policies using our [Online Policy Link Submission Form](#).

To learn more about any of AASB's Policy Links or any of its policy services – Policy Pipeline, Policy Review & Analysis or Policy Listserv, call 334-277-9700, or email us at [policy@AlabamaSchoolBoards.org](mailto:policy@AlabamaSchoolBoards.org).

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## Join School Board Peers from Across the Nation at COSSBA's Upcoming Events



**COSSBA 2025**  
NATIONAL CONFERENCE  
*Education for All*  
Bridging Gaps, Breaking Barriers  
March 21-23, 2025  
Atlanta, Georgia

### COSSBA National Conference March 21-23

You still have time to register 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.

#### General Registration:

- Unified Boards Alliance Pre-Conference + Main Conference - \$995.00

- Main COSSBA Conference Only - \$775.00

*(Non COSSBA Members Conference Only - \$825.00)*

[Register Now](#)



## Webinar: Building a Team to Foster Comprehensive Mental Health Support Services

Join COSSBA April 16 from noon to 1 p.m. for an impactful webinar for school board members to learn how to enhance the well-being of students, families and school staff by building a comprehensive student support program that focuses on mental health issues.

[Register Now](#)



## National School Safety Symposium

COSSBA's National School Safety Symposium, slated for June 25-27, 2025, in St. Louis, Missouri, is the premier gathering for school system safety teams including superintendents, school resource officers, school board members, communication directors and safety officers.

This symposium brings together top experts in school safety and security to share the latest strategies, best practices and innovative solutions to address today's evolving safety challenges. Space is limited, so register early!

- **Registration:** \$625 per person
- **Registrations for three or more:** \$535 per person (must register at the same time)

[Register Now](#)

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## REMINDER: Ethics Forms Due April 30

Don't forget **April 30, 2025**, is the deadline for school board members and superintendents to file annual financial disclosure forms with the state Ethics Commission for 2024.

The forms are available on the State of Alabama Ethics Commission's website.

[Learn More](#)

**BOARD MEMBER** *Spotlight*

**Meet Jeff Bailey**  
Covington County Board of Education

**Q:** What excites you the most about being a school board member?

**A:** — “ “ —  
Seeing the success of students in our system and providing them with greater opportunities!  
— ” —

Covington COUNTY SCHOOLS

ALABAMA ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL BOARDS

## Spotlight On: Jeff Bailey

Longtime pharmacist and school board member Jeff Bailey shares his 26-year journey serving on the Covington County Board of Education.

From fighting for better funding to unwinding on his tractor, discover more about John and what drives his passion for education. Spoiler alert: he never planned on becoming a board member!

[Read More](#)

## Phone Free Schools on a Budget: Success Stories

Learn how principals from urban Ohio and rural Vermont implemented successful bell-to-bell phone-free policies with minimal cost. Their schools now enjoy more student interaction, improved hallway and lunchroom environments, and students are experiencing academic, social and mental health benefits.

The webinar also will cover model legislation developed by the Becca Schmill Foundation, The Anxious Generation, USC Neely Center, Fairplay, and the Phone-Free Schools Movement.

*This free webinar is not hosted by AASB but may be of interest to Alabama's local school board members.*

[Register Now](#)



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## AASB Job Board



### Geneva City Schools: Superintendent

The Geneva Board of Education is seeking an experienced and dedicated leader with a strong background in driving student success to become its next superintendent. This search is being conducted by AASB.

[LEARN MORE / APPLY BY 3/21](#)



### Empower Schools of Alabama: Executive Director

Empower Schools of Alabama (located in Bessemer, just southwest of Birmingham) is seeking a passionate and experienced leader dedicated to student success to serve as its executive director. This search is being conducted by AASB.

[LEARN MORE / APPLY](#)

### Tuscaloosa County Schools: CSFO

The Tuscaloosa County Board of Education is seeking highly qualified candidates for the position of Chief School Financial Officer. [LEARN MORE / APPLY](#)



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