



FOR YOUR *information*

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

May 13, 2022



SBOE Delays Action on Suspending Praxis Assessment

The decision to suspend the Praxis content knowledge assessment for teacher candidates completing an Alabama educator preparation program in a teaching field remains on hold while the State Board of Education continues to gather information.

State Superintendent of Education Dr. Eric Mackey indicated during Thursday's board work session the teacher certification work group, tasked with identifying short- and long-term solutions to address a critical teacher shortage, will meet again in June, allowing him to present additional information for discussion and consideration at the board's next meeting.

Suspension of the Praxis was suggested as a short-term measure to increase the available pool of teachers, but Mackey explained some stakeholders view the solution as controversial.

"There is a fear out there that the Praxis would not be reinstated at a later date," Mackey said.

Other work session topics of discussion included: the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) graduation requirement; social studies and science courses of study; educator prep programs; CTE state textbook committee updates; and construction projects.

The SBOE meeting preceding the workshop featured recognition of Alabama's 2022-23 Teacher of the Year, Alternate, and 14 district finalists.

[Read Full Story](#)

Summer Conference Book Drive: Donate According to Your AASB District!



AASB is asking Summer Conference attendees to donate new or like-new books to the Association's Inaugural Summer Book Drive 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 donations at the AASB Summer Conference June 17-19 at the Perdido Beach Resort in Orange Beach!

**AASB Districts 1, 2 & 3:
Grades K-5**

**AASB Districts 4, 5 & 6:
Grades 6-8**

**AASB Districts 6, 7 & 8:
Grades 9-12**

[More Summer Conference Info](#)



Register Now for July New Board Member Orientation

Whether you are a new school board member eager to learn the nuts and bolts of school board service or a veteran member in need of a refresher, AASB's two-part orientation provides a wealth of information to strengthen leadership and boardmanship skills. In addition, orientation provides an excellent team-building opportunity for superintendents and new school board members to attend together.

Roles & Responsibilities - Friday, July 15

Part I of AASB's school board member orientation, Roles & Responsibilities covers the role of the board and the superintendent, the Open Meetings Act, the ethics law, and much more. The course will be offered **Friday, July 15 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.** at the AASB office in Montgomery. Attendees will earn 8 training hours. [> REGISTER](#)

Effective Boards & Relationships - Saturday, July 16

Part II of AASB's school board member orientation, Effective Boards & Relationships takes an in-depth look at effective school board leadership, how your board should work with its superintendent and board attorney, and the art of advocacy. The course will be offered **Saturday, July 16 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.** at the AASB office in Montgomery. Attendees will earn 6 training hours. [> REGISTER](#)

***NOTE:** The School Board Governance Improvement Act requires all new board members to take Orientation within one year of the July 1 after taking office.*

Meet Alabama's 2022-2023 Teacher of the Year!

Congrats to Birmingham City Schools teacher, **Reggie White**, Alabama's 2022-2023 Teacher of the Year. White, a National Board certified fifth-grade teacher at Booker T. Washington K-8 School, was announced as the winner during a reception held Wednesday, May 11.

AASB is a proud sponsor of the Alabama's annual Teacher of the Year program. Read more about White in a recent [AL.com article](#).



Need Hours By June 30 Deadline?

Earn Hours Online At Your Convenience

AASB's electronic learning platform, **School Board U**, is a 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.

[Learn More/Register for a Course](#)

Board Member Spotlight: Derek Henderson

Derek Henderson has served on the Alabaster City Board of Education for nearly a decade. He found the chance to serve on the board of the newly formed school system an intriguing opportunity.

Derek said making a positive change in the lives of children -- especially in the lives of the young men he mentors, has been among the most rewarding aspects of serving on the board.

His hobbies include reading, listening to live music (especially jazz) and watching as many sporting events as possible.

Read this month's Board Member Spotlight to learn more about Derek, including how many NCAA Final Four Basketball championship games he's attended (hint: it's a lot)!

[Read More](#)





Just Ask Jayne

What Does Alabama Law Say About a Board Vote to Pass an Action?

Dear Jayne: We are a seven-member county board. Last week, we had a special called meeting and only four members were able to attend. A question arose about whether a 3-1 vote passed. Some people said it passed, and some said it didn't. I thought our votes didn't have to be unanimous. Did it pass?

[View Answer](#)



Trade in and Trade Up on Paperless Board Management Software

We are excited to announce that our partner, Simbli, is offering AASB members an exclusive promotion from now until June 30, 2022!

Simbli is affordable, easy-to-use, secure, web-based board management software. It is also fully compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), SOC certified, and can be viewed in a variety of languages.

As part of this exciting promotion, AASB members will receive **\$500 OFF** the subscription of any Simbli module(s). Already using Simbli? You can receive an additional **\$500 DISCOUNT** when adding a new module as well.

Don't pass up this great opportunity for your staff to save money and organize, align, automate and simplify everyday tasks.

[Learn More](#)



New, Free Financial Literacy Library Launched

The non-profit American Public Education Foundation has launched a free-to-use digital library of personal finance content for teachers, students, and parents/guardians.

This initiative, the **Financial Literacy Resource Library**, follows the foundation's July release of [The Nation's Report Card on Financial Literacy](#), a comprehensive update to its national report card on K-12 state-mandated personal financial education in all 50 states and the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico.

[View the Resource Library](#)

Current Superintendent Job Postings

[Superintendent of Orange Beach City Schools](#) - Deadline May 20

[Superintendent of Selma City Schools](#) - Deadline May 22



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