



FOR YOUR *information*

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

May 12, 2023



ALSDE Unveils New 'Blueprint for Achievement'

The State Board of Education received its first look at the Alabama Department of Education's consolidated plan for instructional supports during the board work session Thursday.

The "Blueprint for Achievement" is guided by the State ESSA plan and the ALSDE's strategic plan, Alabama Achieves, combining a vision, action plan, resources and other information for the six ALSDE offices directly involved in school improvement:

- Alabama Math, Science and Technology Initiative (AMSTI)
- Alabama Reading Initiative (ARI)
- ALSDE EdTechnology
- ALSDE Professional Learning
- Office of Math Improvement
- Office of School Improvement

Board members commended department staff for the information providing the "what" in the comprehensive plan, but stressed more information still is needed to outline the "how" regarding monitoring and determining effectiveness.

In other work session news, department staff provided an update on the number of new teachers hired as a result of the board's two-year pilot program approved in July 2022 to address the teacher shortage. The program aims to widen the pool of teacher candidates by allowing students to score within -1 standard error of measurement (SEM) on the Praxis with a 2.75 or higher GPA in the teaching field. So far, the program has only

produced a fraction of the hundreds of teachers estimated.

Congrats to Alabama's New Teacher of the Year!

Thursday's board meeting featured recognition of Alabama's Teacher of the Year finalists, including new 2023-2024 Teacher of the Year Jeffery L. Norris of Oak Mountain Middle School (Shelby County Schools).

[Read Full Story](#)



Tampa Bay Buccaneers' Rashad Johnson to Speak at Summer Bonus Session

If you're registered for Summer Conference but not the optional Sunday morning Bonus Session, it's not too late to sign up!

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 NOW](#)

Afternoon Track | June 16 & 17: While the Friday and Saturday morning track is full, there are still some available slots for the afternoon track (lunch is included). Both tracks feature the same great speakers and session topics. [REGISTER NOW](#)

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

Summer Conference Book Drive: Donate According to Your AASB District



We're asking Summer Conference attendees to donate new or like-new books for AASB's second annual Summer Book Drive. Let's work together 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.**



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 14

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 14 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 15

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 15 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.

Fall District Meetings on Student Discipline

2023 FALL DISTRICT MEETINGS

District 1	District 2	District 3	District 4	District 5
MON. SEPT. 11	THURS. SEPT. 7	THURS. AUG. 31	TUES. AUG. 29	THURS. SEPT. 14
Saraland	Selma	Ozark	Montgomery	Homewood

District 6	District 7	District 8	District 9
MON. SEPT. 18	THURS. SEPT. 21	TUES. SEPT. 5	TUES. SEPT. 12
Anniston	Tuscaloosa	Decatur	Huntsville

SAVE THE DATE ALABAMA ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL BOARDS

MARK YOUR CALENDAR: Dates and locations for AASB's Fall District Meetings are set. This year's topic will cover timely legal issues related to student discipline. Save the date now for your district's meeting. All meeting times will be 6:00 to 8:30 p.m. Earn 2 training hours. More information and registration details to come.

WBRC TV Features AASB Poverty Simulation (Video)



Walker County Schools staff recently participated in AASB's Poverty Simulation, an eye-opening simulated experience where attendees go through a month of living in poverty -- all in 2.5 hours. Local news coverage featured footage and interviews from the session, including Walker County Schools Superintendent Dennis Willingham, who said he plans to have all system employees go through the session. [Watch the video here.](#)

More About AASB's Poverty Simulation..

Taking on the identity of a family facing the complex challenges of a limited income, Poverty Simulation participants confront the chaos, fear and frustration that can accompany everyday tasks such as seeing a doctor or cashing a check. The simulation culminates in a guided debriefing session, engaging participants in the difficult, honest conversations necessary to not only build awareness and empathy but also to foster improvements in the way we work with and for our neediest students.

With nearly one in four Alabama children living below the poverty line, this experience can make a difference in understanding the barriers our students face in and out of the classroom. [Learn how to schedule a Poverty Simulation for your system.](#)



Need Hours by June 30 Deadline?

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: Wayne Boswell

Butler County school board member Wayne Boswell brings more than three decades of experience in education with



him to the board table.

Boswell, who was elected to the board in 2021, was inspired to join the school board because of his deep belief in public education and a desire to serve as an advocate for every student.

In addition to his education background, Boswell served in the Alabama Army National Guard.

[Read More](#)



Just Ask Jayne

Media Access to School Fight Surveillance Video

Dear Jayne:

There was a fight in the cafeteria and there's a lot of talk on social media about it. A few students are even being disciplined over the fight and now we've been contacted by the media who's asked for access to the surveillance video of the fight under public records laws. Is that allowed?

[View Answer](#)



Montgomery, AL 36104
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