



FOR YOUR *information*

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

October 15, 2021



SBOE Discusses ACAP Cut Scores, Approves FY23 Budget Request

The State Board of Education spent most of its work session Thursday discussing Alabama Comprehensive Assessment Program (ACAP) cut scores and the Alabama Literacy Act's retention requirement. The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) presented recommendations, expressing significant concern with data quality and reliability issues resulting from the pandemic, especially in the areas of access and engagement. When standards were initially set prior to the pandemic, Alabama teachers serving on the committee were operating with the assumption that students would have full access to teachers, instruction and school in general.

The SBOE is required to select a cut score for the initial 2021 ACAP assessment. The board will consider cut score recommendations at its November meeting.

Prior to the work session, the board approved the department's \$5.5 billion FY23 budget request. The request, a \$544 million increase over FY22, was discussed at last month's work session and includes funding increases for school nurses, math coaches, special education teacher incentive stipends, additional middle school teaching units, gifted, transportation, mental health and more.

In a 6-2 vote, the board made permanent an emergency rule it adopted in August pertaining to "Certain Teaching Techniques" (Alabama Administrative Code Rule 290-040-040-.02). The rule is related to the hot-button issue of critical race theory (CRT), a college-level academic concept based on the premise that race isn't biological, but rather a social construct embedded in society within

systems and institutions that play a role in racial inequality. Eleven people who signed up to speak at the meeting voiced their dissent over the rule change, urging the board to reconsider its position.

[Read Full Story](#)



Honoring Board Members, Educators and School Staff Lost to COVID-19

Make plans to join us prior to the start of Fall Conference Sunday, Oct. 17 from 2 to 2:30 as we dedicate a new memorial honoring Alabama school board members, educators and school staff lost to the COVID-19. The outdoor dedication will take place on the grounds of the AASB office at the corner of South Jackson and Houston Streets.

State Superintendent of Education Dr. Eric Mackey, Montgomery Mayor Steven Reed and AASB President and Baldwin County Board of Education Member Shannon Cauley will deliver remarks.

Names of those school systems have lost to the virus will be read as part of Sunday's program. If your school system has not yet submitted names, please [use our online form](#) to do so by noon. Saturday, Oct. 16.

[Learn More](#)



Afternoon Slots Still Available for Convention

Registration opened earlier this month for the annual AASB Convention & Delegate Assembly which will be held Dec. 2-4 at the Hyatt Regency Birmingham - The Wynfrey Hotel. This year's convention will feature two schedule tracks for attendees -- a morning track or an afternoon track. Both tracks will feature the same speaker lineup and session topics. While we've reached capacity for the morning track, there are still some slots available for the afternoon track. Visit the AASB website at AlabamaSchoolBoards.org/Convention to register or for more details about speakers, the Convention agenda and more.

Delegate Assembly

Delegate Assembly, AASB's annual business meeting will be held Thursday, Dec. 2. Times are as follows:

- **5 p.m.** - Bylaws & Resolutions Hearing
- **6:15 p.m.** - Delegates Convene
- **6:30 p.m.** - Delegate Assembly Begins

Delegate/alternate forms have been mailed, and school boards must provide AASB with their delegate and alternate names by **Friday, October 29**. Delegate/alternate names may be [submitted online](#), mailed to P.O. Box 4980, Montgomery, AL 36103-4980, or faxed to 334-270-0000.



Convention Toy Drive

Be sure to bring your donations of new, unwrapped toys for AASB's inaugural Convention Toy Drive! Or, take advantage of the Convention location inside the Riverchase Galleria and do your shopping while there!

Toy donations will be given to a local non-profit organization for disbursement to area youth. Together, we can make the holiday season brighter for Alabama children.

WEBINAR: Student Discipline & Due Process

Join AASB Thursday, November 4 from noon to 1 p.m. for an important webinar covering Student Discipline and Due Process. Dana Hill, shareholder at Hill, Hill, Carter, P.C., will provide a comprehensive overview of the statutory requirements to ensure school boards understand the legal obligation of keeping all students safe without infringing on their constitutional rights.



[Register Now](#)



New Board Member Orientations

Mark your calendar for January 7 & 8, 2022, when AASB holds its next session of New Board Member Orientations. The two-part Orientation course includes:

- **Roles & Responsibilities:** This course covers the nuts and bolts of education law, ethics, finance, effective board meetings and more.
- **Effective Boards & Relationships:** This course focuses on how members of the board relate with one another and how the board establishes and maintains relationships with the board attorney, community, policymakers and others to improve student learning.

Registration for Orientation will open in the coming weeks, so keep an eye out for additional information.



Board Member Spotlight: Dr. Scherrie Pickett

Dr. Scherrie Pickett has served on the Bullock County Board of Education since 2016, motivated by her passion for serving others and demonstrating exemplary leadership. Scherrie has a lengthy background in education and spent nearly 12 years working as a school counselor, which she considers to be one of her greatest accomplishments.

Read this month's Board Member Spotlight to learn more about Scherrie and what board service has meant to her.

[Read More](#)



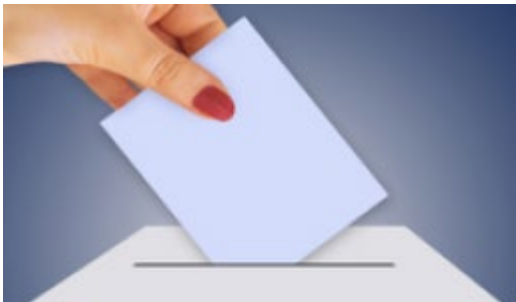
Just Ask Jayne

Board Funds for Condolence Gifts?

Dear Jayne: Our system has lost several employees to COVID and other causes over the past few months. They were longtime and beloved employees. When this happens, is it legal to use board funds to send flowers to their families?

[View Answer](#)

Reminders



District Director Ballots Due October 31

Ballots listing nominees for AASB District 4 and 6 Directors have been mailed to district members. Board presidents must certify the board voted at a meeting to choose a candidate, and ballots must be received or postmarked to AASB by **Oct. 31**.



'Get in the Game' With AASB Membership Card

Did you know your AASB membership card (non-transferable) entitles you to free admission to AHSAA state championship playoff games if a school in your system is competing? To request your membership card, call AASB at 800-562-0601 or [email us](#).

AMERICAN EDUCATION WEEK 2021

November 15-19

Celebrate American Education Week 2021

Join the National Education Association in celebrating American Education Week **Nov. 15-19**. This annual observance is an excellent opportunity to celebrate public education and honor individuals who are making a difference in ensuring every student receives a quality education.

[Learn More](#)



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