



# FOR YOUR *information*

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

**Sept 15, 2023**



## **SBOE Approves New 3rd Grade Reading Cut Score**

The State Board of Education (SBOE) approved the recommendation for a 3rd-grade reading cut score of 435 Thursday, as proposed by the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC). The resolution passed with a 5-3 vote, with board members Jackie Ziegler (District 1), Stephanie Bell (District 3) and Wayne Reynolds (District 8) opposing. The SBOE committed to revisiting the cut core next August.

Defending the score, State Superintendent of Education Dr. Eric Mackey articulated the need for a conservative start, especially in an initial year with potential student retentions.

- Emphasizing a gradual and informed approach, he assured the board that data from the 2023 Summer Reading Camps and the 2024 ACAP assessment would play a pivotal role in future cut score decisions.
- Mackey said he remains optimistic about elevating the score in subsequent years.

The Board Work Session featured continued discussion on the ALSDE's FY25 budget requests. Deputy State Superintendent Dr. Brandon Payne

updated the board on a \$55 million increase in [requests made by the SBOE and ALSDE since the SBOE retreat](#) held last month.

[Read Full Story](#)

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## Exciting Speaker Lineup for AASB Convention



**Governor Kay Ivey**  
54th Governor of Alabama



**Gerry Brooks**  
Veteran Educator & Public Speaker



**Jess Ekstrom**  
Author, Motivational Speaker, &  
CEO/Founder of Headbands of Hope

Registration is open for AASB's [Annual Winter Convention, Dare to Lead](#), which will take place **Thursday, Nov. 30 - Saturday, Dec. 2** at The Sheraton Birmingham Hotel.

You don't want to miss this year's excellent speaker lineup, including **Alabama Gov. Kay Ivey**, who will share updates on new recommendations of the Governor's Commission on Teaching & Learning. We'll also hear from veteran educator and viral comedian **Gerry Brooks** as well as highly sought after author and motivational speaker **Jess Ekstrom**. Other highlights of Convention include inspiring student performances, informative clinic sessions and the vendor Exhibit Showcase.

Arrive early and join us **Thursday, Nov. 30 from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.** for the [Comprehensive Support & Improvement \(CSI\) Workshop](#) offering helpful information about leadership and supports to improve student achievement in systems with underperforming schools. Workshop registration is \$60; Lunch is included. 3.5 training hours.

### Delegate Assembly Information

Delegate Assembly, AASB's annual business meeting, will be held in conjunction with Winter Convention. Delegates will vote on AASB's president-elect as well as changes to our bylaws and resolutions that will govern the Association in 2024. Members are welcome to join Delegate Assembly at no cost. Delegate Assembly will begin on Thursday, Nov. 30 at 6:30 p.m. at The Sheraton Birmingham Hotel.

[Learn More](#)

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## Join AASB, State Board Members for Advocacy Day

Join us in Montgomery Nov. 8 & 9 for AASB's State Board of Education Advocacy Day. Get an up-close look as the board conducts its business, discusses K-12 priorities and shapes public education policy.

- **Wednesday, Nov. 8, 6-8 p.m.** AASB staff will provide training on the role of the state board of education and its impact on public education policy. State board members will participate in a panel discussion highlighting key education issues, followed by dinner.
- **Thursday, Nov. 9,** start the day at AASB's office with a light breakfast and training session at 8 a.m., followed by a visit to the Gordon Persons Building to watch the State BOE meeting and work session in action. Lunch will be provided for those attending the work session.

**Training Hours:** You will receive 2 hours of credit for attending AASB's State Board of Education Advocacy Day.

[Register Now](#)

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## Supercharge Your Board's Community Engagement Efforts at AASB Fall Conference!



The countdown is on to AASB's 2023 [Fall Academy Core Conference, Leadership for Community Engagement](#), Sunday, Oct. 1 and Monday, Oct. 2 at the Renaissance Montgomery Hotel & Spa.

Earn up to six training hours and hear from these dynamic speakers who will explore how local school boards can cultivate and sustain meaningful relationships with stakeholders:

- **"Beyond Grades: Engaging Parents in Student Achievement,"** Dr. Eyal Bergman, senior vice president of Learning Heroes
- **"More than Branding: Transparency & Accountability with Stakeholders,"** Montgomery Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Melvin Brown
- **"Strategic School Communications: What Parents Want,"** Dr. Julie Evans, chief executive officer of Project Tomorrow
- **"Superintendent Panel: When the Crisis Hits the Fan,"** Jefferson County Schools Superintendent Dr. Walter Gonsoulin, Selma City Schools Superintendent Dr. Zickeyous Byrd and Tallapoosa County Schools Superintendent Raymond Porter
- **"Managing Misinformation & Disgruntled Constituents on Social Media,"** Baldwin County Schools General Counsel Sarah Young and Communications Coordinator Chasity Riddick

**Breakout Sessions:** In addition, rotating breakout sessions will cover practical topics such as media training, engaging ELL families and community outreach initiatives.

**Post-Conference Workshop: The New Generation of Drugs Impacting Students:** Extend your learning even further Monday, Oct. 2 from 12:15 to to 2:15 p.m. by attending the Post-Conference Workshop, "The New Generation of Drugs Impacting Students." This eye-opening session will provide current information local school boards should know about the dangers of vaping and street drugs such as fentanyl and "Tranq." Experts will share proactive measures schools can take to keep students safe. Earn two training hours. [\\*Separate Registration Required](#)

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## Whole Board Training: Exciting Promotions for Early Birds!

AASB's exemplary training team is prepared to help you improve your skills via [32 interactive courses](#) created to meet your board's needs and fulfill the



state-mandated two-hour whole board training requirement.

And it pays to book early! [Browse this year's Whole Board Training brochure](#) for several exciting promotions, including a **chance for your board secretary to win a \$50 gift card** and a special **drawing for boards to win priority registrations for Summer Conference 2024!**

For more information, contact AASB Executive Assistant **Stephanie B. Bell** at [sbell@alabamaschoolboards.org](mailto:sbell@alabamaschoolboards.org) or call 800-562-0601.

[Request Your Training](#)



## Career Tech Education: Credentialing 101

**WHEN:** Thursday, Nov. 2 | Noon to 1 p.m. | **COST:** \$55 individual, \$210 group | **EARN:** 1 hour

Career Tech Education (CTE) plays a crucial role in shaping the future of Alabama's workforce. With an emphasis on practical skills and hands-on learning, CTE provides students with the tools they need to succeed in the job market. CTE curriculum credentials validate skills students have acquired and help them compete in today's workforce.

Join us Thursday, Nov. 2 from noon to 1 p.m. for our next webinar, "Career Tech Education: Credentialing 101." Career Tech and Workforce Development Education

Administrator **Ken Sealy** will discuss the ins and outs of credentialing in Alabama and what school boards need to understand about the process. Attendees will take away key pointers on how your school systems can expand offerings with CTE programs and credentials.

[Register Now](#)



## District Director Elections

Congratulations to District 4 Director **Matilda Woodyard-Hamilton** and District 6 Director **Scott Suttle** who ran unopposed for second terms on the AASB Board of Directors.

Ballots have been mailed listing the following director nominees for Districts 2 and 8:

- **District 2 - Ola Ford** (Linden); and **Camille Gibson** (Bibb County)
- **District 8 - Jimmy Dobbs** (incumbent, Morgan County); and **Amy Carter** (Cullman)

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.

[Learn More](#)



## '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



## Raising County Board Compensation

Is your county school board considering a member compensation raise? Boards can only act to raise their compensation at the Annual Meeting which must be held each November.

Board members can receive

AASB at 800-562-0601 or send us an email at [membership@AlabamaSchoolBoards.org](mailto:membership@AlabamaSchoolBoards.org).

compensation of up to \$600 a month unless a higher figure is set by a local act. [Learn more.](#)



## Board Member Spotlight: Annie Jackson

When Pickens County school board member **Annie Jackson** learned her high school alma mater was being closed and saw the impact upon the students and her community, she knew she wanted to work to make a difference. She decided to run for a seat on the school board, where she has served since 2012 and now holds the title of board president.

A retired wound care and hyperbaric nurse, Annie says one of the most important things she has learned since she joined the school board is to "always keep an open mind."

She enjoys witnessing the growth of students in Pickens County and helping set a clear vision for the school system.

[Read More](#)



## Just Ask Jayne

## Can Schools Still Use GoFan for Ticket Sales?

Dear Jayne:

It's finally football season! Our schools have been using GoFan for ticket sales since the pandemic but I heard there's a new law that may change this. Can we still use GoFan?

[View Answer](#)



## AASB Job Board

The Phenix City Board of Education is seeking a versatile leader with a positive attitude to serve as its next Chief School Financial Officer and work efficiently with the superintendent and board in building and maintaining a high-performing school system. This search is being conducted by AASB. [Learn More/Apply](#)

### Other Vacancies

- **Lee County Schools Superintendent** - [Learn More/Apply](#)
- **Piedmont City Schools CSFO** - [Learn More/Apply](#)
- **Sumter County Schools CSFO** - [Learn More/Apply](#)



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