



**Aug. 15, 2025**



## **Higher ACAP Reading Cut Score: Alabama's 3rd Graders Show Continued Progress**

Alabama's third graders continue to demonstrate strong reading proficiency, with 91.5% meeting or exceeding the newly raised benchmark on the Alabama Comprehensive Assessment Program (ACAP). Despite the increased cut score from 435 to 444, more students participated in both spring and summer testing compared to last year, showing the state's commitment to reading achievement.

In a historic first for Alabama, two high school students—Luke Lawson of Headland High School and Nicholas Frazier of Stanhope Elmore High School—were elected to the top leadership positions at American Legion Boys Nation. This marks the first time since 2003 that both leadership seats have been filled by students from the same state, highlighting Alabama's emerging student leadership on the national stage.

The State Board of Education also took action related to the following:

- Paid Parental Leave
- RAISE Act
- Vaping Awareness Program

[Read Full Story](#)

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## Fall Conference: Leadership for Academic Achievement

Join us at the Renaissance Montgomery Hotel & Spa October 5 & 6, 2025, for AASB's [Fall Academy Core Conference!](#)

### Advancing Your Board's #1 Priority: Academic Achievement

As academic excellence remains the cornerstone of effective school governance, this conference delivers the tools and insights board members need to drive student success. You'll gain data-driven strategies to strengthen curriculum alignment, enhance learning outcomes and make high-impact policy decisions. \$209 | 6 training hours

Our exceptional lineup of educational thought leaders includes:

- **JIMMY CASAS:** Award-winning former principal and bestselling author - will discuss true learning vs. mere teaching
- **ASHLEY LUCIER:** Executive director of Amp Up Arts - will explain the vital links between arts education in academic achievement
- **ANDREA MANESS:** High school principal (Pike Road City Schools) - will highlight the power of student-led data tracking
- **TASHA CARTER:** Dynamic leadership coach and educational consultant - will explain the essential building blocks of growth-mindset cultures
- **DR. JANIE JONES:** Middle school principal (Henry County Schools) - will explain how writing across disciplines boosts literacy and student achievement

### Post-Conference Workshop - Social Media Survival Guide: Essential Skills for Today's Board Members

Complete your professional development experience with our Post-Conference Workshop, "Social Media Survival Guide," Monday, October 6. Earn an additional two hours of School Board Member Academy credit while mastering the legal and strategic essentials of social media. \$109 | 2 training hours

[Contact Board Secretary or AASB to Register Today!](#)



## Fall District Meetings Begin Next Week! Have You Registered?

**Your seat is waiting!** The first of AASB's 2025 Fall District Meetings launches Monday, Aug. 18, in Montgomery (District 4), with additional dates fast approaching!

This year, we're dropping the mic on tradition with an all-new format designed to amplify YOUR voice on Alabama's most pressing education priorities. If you haven't already signed up to attend, act quickly to reserve your spot!

## The Playlist

- **MAIN STAGE:** Deep dive on game-changing legislative and policy issues in education
- **YOUR VOICE:** Direct input that shapes AASB's 2026 legislative priorities
- **SUPERSTAR** Recognition of individual and team training achievement awards
- **SPOTLIGHT** Celebration of Alabama's District Superintendents of the Year

## District Meeting Schedule Dates

**D1: Tuesday, Sept. 16** | Saraland Early Education Center, 4000 Lil Spartan Dr., Saraland, AL

**D2: Tuesday, Aug. 26** | Wallace Community College, Hank Sanders Technology Center Conference Room, 3000 Earl Goodwin Pkwy, Selma, AL

**D3: Monday, Aug. 25** | The Fox Den, 181 S. Union Ave., Ozark, AL

**D4: Monday, Aug. 18** | AASB Office, 43 S. Jackson St., Montgomery, AL

**D5: Thursday, Sept. 11** | Fultondale High School, 2023 Wildcat Pkwy, Birmingham, AL

**D6: Monday, Sept. 15** | Jacksonville State University, Meehan Hall/Stadium Towers, 224 Cole Dr. NW, Jacksonville, AL

**D7: Thursday, Aug. 21** | Hotel Capstone, 320 Paul W Bryant Dr, Tuscaloosa, AL

**D8: Thursday, Sept. 4** | The Magnolia Room, 216 Moulton St. E, Decatur, AL

**D9: Monday, Sept. 22** | Bob Jones High School, 650 Hughes Road, Madison, AL

## Registration

Registration cost is \$39 which includes dinner. All meeting times are 6 to 8:30 p.m., and attendees will earn 1.5 hours in the School Board Member Academy.

**CONTACT YOUR BOARD SECRETARY OR AASB TO REGISTER**



### View All Upcoming AASB Events & Plan Your Training Year

AASB's diverse lineup of 2025-2026 learning opportunities is designed to help support your school board team in governance and leadership.

From district meetings to timely webinars to information-packed workshops and conferences, you'll find a wealth of training events to help build your knowledge and sharpen your boardmanship skills.

[View or Download Calendar](#)



### Whole Board Training: It Pays to Book Early!

AASB's 2025-26 [Whole Board Training lineup](#) features a robust catalog of workshops designed to enhance your governance team's effectiveness and strengthen your leadership skills.

And it pays to book early! Check out these exciting promotions:

## TRAINING DISCOUNT

- 10% discount on Whole Board Training fee for boards who schedule and complete their AASB-led Whole Board Training by Sept. 30, 2025.

## GIFT CARD DRAWING FOR BOARD SECRETARIES

- Schedule and complete your AASB-led training by Sept. 30, 2025, and your board secretary will be entered to win a drawing for one of three \$50 gift cards!

For more info or to schedule Whole Board Training, contact AASB Leadership Development Coordinator Candi Longnecker at [training@AlabamaSchoolBoards.org](mailto:training@AlabamaSchoolBoards.org), or call 334-277-9700.

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## Recognizing Excellence in Education Advocacy

### *Nominations Due Sept. 30 for A-Team Advocacy Award*

We are seeking nominations for AASB's A-Team Advocacy Award, which celebrates school board members for exceptional advocacy efforts. This recognition program honors those who have made significant impacts through policy influence and relationship-building with elected officials.

Board members can self-nominate or be nominated by peers for their outstanding advocacy efforts. Nominations are open until September 30, 2025. For more information, contact AASB Governmental Relations Coordinator Tracey Meyer at 334-277-9700 or [tmeyer@AlabamaSchoolBoards.org](mailto:tmeyer@AlabamaSchoolBoards.org).

- [View Award Criteria](#)

[Submit Nomination Online](#)

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**Consortium of State School Boards Association  
(COSSBA) Upcoming Events & Announcements**



Join education champions from across the nation at the Consortium of State School Boards Association's (COSSBA) Federal Advocacy Conference, **September 7-9, 2025, in Washington, D.C.**

This is your opportunity to directly engage with key policymakers, build powerful advocacy networks, and shape the future of education policy. Don't miss this chance to stand up for students in the halls of Congress!

**Registration:** \$725.00

**Time is running out – [Secure your spot today!](#)**

## Call for Proposals

### *UBA Pre-conference Day & COSSBA National Conference*

COSSBA is now accepting proposals for dynamic and informative sessions for both the Unified Board Alliance (UBA) Pre-conference Day and the 2026 National Conference in Louisville, Kentucky, which will be held in March.

If you have insights, strategies or innovations that support student success and strengthen public education, COSSBA wants to hear from you!

Proposals are due by **Oct. 3, 2025.**

[Learn More](#)

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**Two Great Opportunities to Shine the Spotlight on Your Schools!**



### Convention Clinic Proposals Due Sept. 30

Do you have a governance best practice or innovative program you'd like to share with other school boards?

**Submit a proposal to present a breakout clinic session** during the annual AASB Convention at the Renaissance Montgomery Hotel & Spa Dec. 5-7, 2025.

Topics may cover a variety of areas, including effective board leadership and governance practices, navigating legal issues, technology that engages students, programs proven to boost achievement and more. The deadline to submit a proposal is **Tuesday, Sept. 30**.



### Student Entertainment Applications Due Sept. 30

Showcase your school system's talented students by **submitting a student entertainment application** for AASB's Annual Convention at the Renaissance Montgomery Hotel & Spa Dec. 5-7, 2025.

We're accepting submissions from vocal, instrumental, performing arts and JROTC groups!

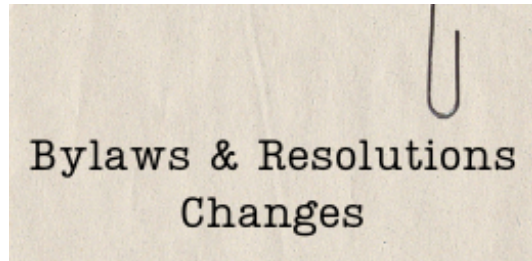
AASB's Annual Convention brings more than 500 school board members and superintendents to Alabama's capital city. Don't miss this opportunity to shine the spotlight on your talented students! The deadline to apply is **Tuesday, Sept. 30**.



### President-Elect, District Director Nominations

**Self-nominations** are being accepted for AASB president-elect for 2026. Both the president and president-elect serve a one-year term. AASB bylaws call for president-elect candidates to have served on the AASB Board of Directors; however, such service need not be consecutive to the individual's candidacy for or term of elective office. Nomination forms must be postmarked on or before Sept. 1.

AASB also is holding director elections for Districts 2, 4, 6 and 8. **Nominations** must be made in writing and postmarked or received by Sept. 1. District directors serve two-year terms and can serve two complete terms. **Learn more.**



### Bylaws & Resolutions Changes

School board members are asked to submit proposed resolutions or changes to AASB bylaws **by Sept. 1**.

Proposals, which must be submitted in writing, will be considered by AASB's Delegate Assembly during the association's annual convention in December. Visit AASB's website to review current **Bylaws & Resolutions**.

Send submissions via:

**EMAIL:**  
[twright@AlabamaSchoolBoards.org](mailto:twright@AlabamaSchoolBoards.org)

**MAIL:**  
P.O. Box 4980  
Montgomery, AL 36103-4980

**BOARD MEMBER** *Spotlight*

**Meet Carita Venable**  
 Jefferson County Board of Education

**Q:** What advice would you share with incoming board members?  
**A:** — “ “ —  
 Listen to and learn from seasoned board members. Know your role and responsibilities as a board member and work collaboratively with your superintendent and fellow board members. Model the expectations you want to see in others. — ” —

**JEFCOED**




## Board Member Spotlight: Carita Venable

With more than two decades in education and serving on the Jefferson County Board of Education since 2019, **Carita Venable** brings valuable experience as a teacher, principal and now senior leadership coach.

Originally aspiring to become an attorney, Carita discovered her passion for education during a summer volunteer experience — a path that's allowed her to fulfill her belief that quality education should be accessible to all students.

[Read More](#)



**HALEYVILLE CITY SCHOOLS**

**SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH**



**APPLY BY AUGUST 25**

**APPLY: <https://bit.ly/haleyville-supt>**

## Haleyville City Schools Superintendent Search

The Haleyville City Board of Education is seeking an experienced and dedicated leader with a strong background in driving student success to become its next superintendent. The deadline to apply is Aug. 25. This search is being conducted by the Alabama Association of School Boards. [Learn more/apply.](#)

Other vacancies:

- [Baldwin County Schools CSFO](#)



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