



FOR YOUR *information*

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

January 9, 2026



SBOE Discusses 2026 Legislative Session, ALSDE Budget Request

State Superintendent Eric Mackey previewed the upcoming legislative session and FY27 budget priorities at Thursday's State Board meeting, where members also approved Alabama's first master's level educator preparation program for teachers of visually impaired students.

Additionally, several items scheduled for next month's work session were discussed, including the recently updated draft of the Comprehensive School Counseling and Guidance Model for Alabama Public Schools.

[Read Full Story](#)



THANK YOU, SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS!

#SchoolBoardMVPs

Happy School Board Member Recognition Month

January marks Alabama's 33rd Annual School Board Member Recognition Month, and we want to take a moment to celebrate YOU — our more than 800 dedicated school board members across the state. Your commitment to Alabama's students and communities makes a difference every single day, and this month is all about honoring that service.

To help schools and communities show their appreciation, AASB has put together a toolkit filled with resources including customizable certificates, social media graphics, MVP cards and creative celebration ideas. Be sure to share your recognition moments on social media using #SchoolBoardMVPs, #ThanksALBOE, and #SchoolBoardMonth. Be sure to tag us so we can celebrate with you!

[Learn More](#)



2026 March Conference
The Hotel at Auburn University | Auburn, Ala.

★ NEW LOCATION ★
AUBURN, ALA.

**LEADERSHIP FOR
DEVELOPING A HIGHLY
EFFECTIVE STAFF**

March 6 & 7

ALABAMA
ASSOCIATION OF
SCHOOL BOARDS

Now Is the Time to Invest in Your Team: Register for AASB's March Conference

Teacher shortages, recruitment hurdles and retention struggles aren't just headlines. They're realities affecting schools in your communities right now. That's why AASB's Spring Academy Core Conference, **Leadership for Developing a Highly Effective Staff**, couldn't be more timely.

Join us **March 6 & 7** as we head to a brand-new location: **The Hotel at Auburn University!** Earn 6 training hours while learning practical strategies to attract, support and retain the talented educators your students deserve.

Extend your learning with these great pre-conference sessions **Friday, March 6:**

- **Poverty Simulation** - 9 to 11:30 a.m. | 2.5 hours | \$59
- **Communicating with the Media** - 1 to 3 p.m. | 2 hours | \$79

Contact your board secretary or AASB to register!

[Learn More/Get Hotel Info](#)



Reminder: Register for Advocacy Days

With Alabama's 2026 legislative session kicking off Tuesday, Jan. 13, now is the time to make your voice heard! Join us in Montgomery for Advocacy Days to meet with your legislators and discuss key issues impacting public education.

- **Tuesday, Feb. 3** | Districts 6, 7, 8, 9 and CSFOs | [Register](#)
- **Tuesday, Feb. 24** | Districts 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and CSFOs | [Register](#)
- **Wednesday, March 18** | Committee Day (All Districts) | [Register](#)

[View map of AASB Districts](#)

Advocacy Days are a free member benefit. Earn up to 2 training hours and fulfill one criterion for Master Honor Roll.

Board Officers Workshop



Lead with Confidence: Register for All-New Board Officers Workshop Series

Are you a current or aspiring board officer looking to sharpen your skills? AASB's Board Officers Workshop is back in a brand-new format designed with you in mind!

Join us on Zoom for four engaging 90-minute evening sessions:

- **February 17** – Welcome & The Power of the Presidency (earn 1.5 hours)
- **February 24** – Being the Leader Your System Needs & Building Relationships (earn 1.5 hours)
- **March 3** – Robert's Rules Refresh & Dealing with Difficult People (earn 1.5 hours)
- **March 10** – Accountability to Ensure Positive Governance & Roundtable Discussion (earn 1.5 hours)

You'll strengthen your leadership, communication, and facilitation skills while learning about running efficient meetings, parliamentary procedure, managing conflict, and more.

REGISTRATION: \$59 for the complete series. Earn up to 6 hours (1.5 hours awarded for each session attended).

CONTACT YOUR BOARD SECRETARY OR AASB TO SIGN UP.



Invite AASB to Speak to Your Local Civic Groups

Misinformation about public education is rampant. The real story of Alabama's public schools won't tell itself; however, YOU can help us tell it.

If you're involved with a Rotary club, Lions Club, chamber of commerce, or other civic organization, consider inviting AASB to speak. Civic groups are hubs of community influence, and their members carry conversations far beyond the meeting room.

If you're interested in getting AASB on the agenda to speak during your group's upcoming meeting, [complete our convenient online request form](#) to let us know!



simbli
by eBOARDsolutions

40% OFF Promotion

Add any Simbli modules and save 40% on your FY26 subscription through June 30.

New Year, New Savings: 40% Off Simbli Modules Through Jan. 31

Looking to streamline your board's operations in 2026? Now's the time to act! Through Jan. 31, school boards can **save 40% on new Simbli module subscriptions** for FY26, plus get \$1,000 off meetings data conversion if switching from another system, and \$1,000 off Single Sign-On setup for Microsoft or Google.

An AASB strategic partner, Simbli by **eboardsolutions**, is a paperless board management software that helps simplify everything from meeting management to strategic planning, policy tracking and communications.

Contact AASB Member Engagement Rep. **Dennis Coe** to request a demo today: Dcoe@alabamaschoolboards.org | 770-962-6840.

School System Spotlight: Perry County Schools



Leading the Way in Artificial Intelligence

Perry County Schools is proving small systems can lead big innovation. The system has built its own secure AI infrastructure with custom tools for student data analysis, policy guidance and administrator support — all while keeping student privacy protected. See how they're blazing a bold path in educational technology!

[Learn More](#)



'Just One Thing'

Feeling overwhelmed by all you want to accomplish in 2026? AASB Director of Leadership Development **Janice Stockman** shares a simple mantra that's kept her running for over two decades — and how it can help you make meaningful progress as a school board member, one small step at a time.

[Read More](#)

Congrats to Whole Board Training Gift Card Winners!



Congratulations to our second-quarter gift card winners: **Janet Bradley** (Selma), **Brenda Landon** (Conecuh County) and **Angela Posey** (Birmingham). These board secretaries each won \$50 gift cards for AASB's Whole Board Training early bird promotion for October - December 2025.

Your board secretary could be next! Schedule and complete your AASB-led training in January, February or March to be entered in our next drawing for one of three \$50 gift cards. Our exemplary training team offers a [wide selection of](#)

[interactive courses](#) that meet your board's needs and fulfill the state-mandated two-hour whole board training requirement.

For more information, contact AASB Leadership Development Coordinator **Candi Longnecker** at clongnecker@alabamaschoolboards.org or call 800-562-0601.

Key Reminders and Deadlines



FCPA Deadline Jan. 31

Elected school board members and elected superintendents have until Jan. 31 to file their annual Fair Campaign Practices Acts reports. [Visit the Alabama Secretary of State's website](#) for more information or to download the report.



Wanted: AASB Committee Volunteers

We're seeking volunteers to serve on AASB committees. Incoming committee members will be appointed for one-year terms. Committees include: Advocacy, Board Training Advisory, Bylaws, Equity, Nominating and Resolutions Committees. [Learn more.](#)



New Board Members: Ethics Reminder

DID YOU KNOW? Board members must take ethics training within 120 days of taking office. Taking AASB's Roles & Responsibilities course in person or online fulfills this requirement. You also can complete the [Alabama Ethics Commission training video](#).

WE'RE HIRING!

Membership Coordinator

APPLICATION DEADLINE:
Position will be filled as quickly as possible

APPLY: <https://bit.ly/membershipco-aasb>

Vacancy: AASB Membership Coordinator

AASB is hiring a **Membership Coordinator** to join our dynamic, fast-paced, team-oriented environment. We're looking for a detail-oriented, analytically minded self-starter to manage our membership data, coordinate event registrations and provide exceptional service to association members. [Learn more/apply.](#)





Alabama Association of School Boards | 43 South Jackson Street | Montgomery, AL 36104 US

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