



FOR YOUR *information*

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

March 13, 2026

SBOE Vote Ends Chapter on Social Studies Textbooks Debate



After months of public and board-level debate, the State Board of Education voted Thursday to approve the long-delayed K-12 Social Studies Textbook Committee recommendations.

The board also approved the K-12 Arts Education Textbook Committee recommendations, adopted the state's first updated school counseling

framework since 2003 and appointed a new Energy and Natural Resources Course of Study Committee.

In the work session, the board announced intent to overhaul Alabama's teacher certification administrative code, with a vote expected in June, and Superintendent of Education Eric Mackey provided an update on the state education budget as it heads to the Senate.

[Read Full Story](#)

Holden Named New AASB Executive Director

AASB's Board of Directors has named the association's next executive director. **Chad Holden, Ed.D.**, superintendent of Muscle Shoals City Schools, will succeed Sally Smith when she retires June 30 after 40 years of service to the association.

Holden brings nearly 24 years of public education experience as a teacher, principal, superintendent and former school board member, giving him a perspective on school board governance that spans nearly every seat at the table.



[Read Announcement](#)



Don't Miss AASB's Biggest Event of the Year!

More than 500 school board members and education leaders already have registered for [AASB's 2026 Summer Conference](#) being held **June 19-21** in Gulf Shores, Ala. Summer Conference is always our biggest event of the year, and you don't want to sit this one out! (7 training hours | \$349)

Start strong with the School Safety Summit on **June 19**, a pre-conference session packed with best practices and strategies to help keep your schools safe. (3.5 training hours | \$159)

Then, get ready for two days of high-energy learning and connection, anchored by two exceptional keynotes:

Raven Solomon, author and strategist, is bringing bold ideas on leadership and building for what's next. **Rennie Curran**, author, leadership coach, and former NFL linebacker, will deliver a powerful message on resilience and showing up when it matters most.



Raven Solomon

Rennie Curran

Other conference highlights will include a legislative panel on key education policy issues, an exhibitor showcase and a special welcome reception.

NOTE: The conference host hotel, The Lodge at Gulf State Park, is sold out; however, we are maintaining a [wait list](#). We've also secured group room blocks at Hotel Indigo and the Hampton Inn & Suites, in addition to discounted condo

rentals from Brett Robinson Rentals.

CONTACT YOUR BOARD SECRETARY OR AASB TO SIGN UP TODAY!

Check Out these Upcoming Webinars



April 15 | Board Meeting Minutes: 10 Tips

Join AASB's strategic partner, eBoardsolutions, and Civility, LLC, **Wednesday, April 15, from 11 a.m. to noon** (Central time) for a **FREE**, skills-focused webinar grounded in parliamentary procedure best practices and *Robert's Rules of Order*. [REGISTER NOW](#)



April 16 | Understanding Poverty in Our Classrooms

SAVE THE DATE: Join us **Thursday, April 16, from noon to 1 p.m.** (Central time) as we explore how poverty impacts student learning and what school board members need to know to support every child in their system. Details and registration information coming soon!

Share Your Policy Links With Us!

AASB's free online Policy Links provide direct access to school system policy manuals.

Curious about what other boards have in policy? Want to know what format other school systems are using to share their policies with their community? Just browse through the links.



You can help us keep the Policy Links service up to date by sharing the link your school system's online policies using our [Online Policy Link Submission Form](#).

To learn more about any of AASB's policy services including Policy Pipeline, Policy Review & Analysis or the Policy Listserv, call 334-277-9700, or email us at policy@AlabamaSchoolBoards.org.



Board Meetings: Lights, Camera, Livestream?

Q

Dear AASB: A local media representative has asked the school board for permission to livestream an upcoming board meeting. Is the board legally allowed to deny the request?

A

No. If the meeting is a public meeting, the board may not deny the media's request to livestream it. Under the Alabama Open Meetings Act, any person attending a public meeting is permitted to record, photograph, or broadcast the meeting as long as doing so does not disrupt the meeting. The only exception applies to portions of the meeting that the board lawfully convenes in executive sessions. Those portions may not be recorded or broadcast. Ala. Code § 36-25A-6.

Leadership Lens: 'You Cannot Pretend to Show Up'



Does your presence at the board table really matter? Indeed, it does, and more than you might think. AASB Director of Leadership Development Janice Stockman reflects on what consistency, reliability and simply "being there" say about who you are as a leader.

[Read More](#)

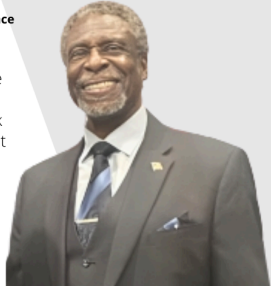


Board Member Spotlight: Leo Branch, Sr.

BOARD MEMBER *Spotlight*

Meet Leo Branch Sr.
Greene County Board of Education

Q: What's one key thing you've learned since becoming a board member?

A: — “ —
The one most important thing I have learned since becoming a school board member is that we must work as a unit. It's not about me, but about the best decisions for our school system and how that impacts the success of our students' education. — ” —

From PTA president to longtime board member, Leo Branch, Sr., has spent decades serving Greene County students, and he's not slowing down! A retired industrial mechanic who devoted 35 years to Alabama Power and nearly 24 years to his local school board, Leo brings the same steady, hardworking ethic to the boardroom that he carried to the plant floor. Grounded in faith and the belief that every child deserves a strong foundation, he's proof the most public education advocates come from the community.

[Read More](#)

March 18 Advocacy Committee Day Cancelled



Due to the fast pace of the current legislative session and uncertainty surrounding committee meetings for next week, AASB's Advocacy Committee Day scheduled for March 18 has been **cancelled**.

For those who attended our February Advocacy Days, we truly appreciate your willingness to take time to advocate on behalf of local school boards! We look forward to providing these opportunities again next year.

Reminders & Deadlines



Ethics Forms Due April 30

Don't forget **April 30, 2026**, is the deadline for school board members and superintendents to file annual financial disclosure forms with the state Ethics Commission for 2025.

The forms are available on the State of Alabama [Ethics Commission's website](#).



Whole Board Training Slots Filling Quickly

The June 30 deadline for the 2025-26 training year will be here before you know it. Has your board completed or scheduled its state-mandated Whole Board Training? Slots are filling quickly!

[Browse our Whole Board Training lineup](#) to choose from dozens of topics,

or contact us to discuss a custom option.

AASB Job Board



The advertisement features a red and orange background with a circular logo for Phenix City Schools at the top center. Below the logo, the text "SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH" is displayed in white on a dark grey banner. The main image shows two young children, a boy and a girl, smiling and looking at a QR code on a table. A red box on the left side of the image contains the text "APPLY BY: April 3". At the bottom of the image, a red banner contains the text "APPLY: bit.ly/PCS-Supt" and a QR code.

Phenix City Schools Superintendent

The Phenix City Board of Education is seeking a skilled and visionary leader to build on the strengths of this well-performing school system. This search is being conducted by AASB.

The deadline to apply is **April 3, 2026**. [Apply/Learn More.](#)

Additional Vacancies

- [CSFO of Elba City Schools](#)
- [CSFO of Tuscaloosa County Schools](#)



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



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