



Oct. 10, 2025



Oct. 2025 State Board Recap

Alabama public schools are experiencing their largest enrollment decline in five decades, with nearly 6,000 fewer students this year.

2,100 students who were enrolled last year have vanished from all school records. State Superintendent Eric Mackey says many are disproportionately Hispanic, suggesting immigration concerns may be keeping families from enrolling their children. The enrollment decline will trigger elimination of 500-700 teacher positions in the next budget cycle due to how Alabama's Foundation Program calculates staffing.

Key highlights from this month's meeting and work session:

- **FY27 Budget Proposal** - The board voted to send the ALSDE's FY27 budget request to Governor Kay Ivey's office. The governor will use this request as she develops her recommended budget, which will be presented to the Legislature during the first week of the 2026 Legislative session.
- **Math Turnaround Success** – An impressive 88% of Alabama's struggling schools showed growth in math scores, with some schools jumping 10-20 percentage points in student proficiency. State officials say Alabama has become "the tip of the spear for the whole nation" on elementary math.
- **RAISE Act Implementation** – The board approved new rules for Alabama's first major school funding structure change in 30 years.
- **Additional Updates** - The board received updates on positive behavior interventions helping teachers stay in the profession, new school counseling plans, upcoming textbook adoption and course of study votes and much more.

[Read Full Story](#)



Join Us for State Board of Education Advocacy Day

Get an insider's view of how education policy is shaped in Alabama! AASB's State Board of Education Advocacy Day offers a unique opportunity to witness the state board in action as they discuss K-12 priorities and make decisions impacting our schools.

Wednesday, Nov. 12 | 6 to 8 p.m.: Enjoy dinner and an engaging panel discussion with state board members on key education issues.

Thursday, Nov. 13 | 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.: Start with breakfast and training at AASB, then attend the State BOE meeting and work session at the Gordon Persons Building.

This free event offers up to 2 hours of training credit. Space is limited!

[Register Now](#)



Your Voice Makes a Difference!

Thank you to the 194 members who shared their insights in our membership survey!

Key findings from your responses:

- **76.3%** very satisfied—exceeding national benchmarks by 11 points
- **95.4%** find our programs relevant to their school systems
- **92-98%** satisfaction among those using fee-based services
- **79%** interested in potential podcast content
- **51.5%** prioritize support for rural and small school systems
- **57.7%** of boards report struggling with teacher recruitment as top challenge

Your feedback is actively shaping our discussions about new initiatives, including enhanced new member support, advocacy opportunities and expanded service awareness.

Congratulations to Winner of BOSE Speaker Drawing!

Larry Hicks of the Ozark City Board of Education is the lucky winner of the drawing for a BOSE SoundLink Revolve speaker!

[View Results Summary](#)

ALABAMA ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL BOARDS

Annual Convention & Delegate Assembly

Dec. 4-6, 2025 | Renaissance Montgomery Hotel & Spa

UNBREAKABLE

Bold and Resilient Leadership

Registration & Hotel Block Open
SEPT. 25

AlabamaSchoolBoards.org/Convention

There's Still Time to Register for #AASBConvention

It's not too late to secure your spot for the annual AASB Convention, "Unbreakable: Bold & Resilient Leadership," December 4-6 at the Renaissance Montgomery Hotel & Spa. \$299 | 8 training hours | [View Schedule-at-a-Glance](#)

FEATURED SPEAKERS

- **Merlyna Adams** – School principal-turned-quadruple amputee sharing her powerful **story of resilience**
- **Darryl Bellamy, Jr.** – Fearless Inside movement founder with strategies to foster resilience in schools
- **Garrison Wynn** – Bestselling author combining humor with actionable leadership insights

Other Convention highlights include stellar performances by talented student groups, a welcome reception, breakout clinic sessions packed with practical information and more!

PRE-CONVENTION AI SUMMIT: THURSDAY, DEC. 4, 10:30 A.M. - 3 P.M.

Join us Thursday, Dec. 4 from 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., for the pre-convention summit, Demystifying AI. Led by veteran educator Jeff Utecht, this hands-on workshop demystifies artificial intelligence for board members. Explore real-world education applications and gain practical AI knowledge to support your district. \$109 (lunch included) | 4 training hours

DELEGATE ASSEMBLY: THURSDAY, DEC. 4, 6 P.M.

All members are welcome to attend Delegate Assembly, AASB's annual business meeting, where delegates will vote on changes to the association's bylaws and

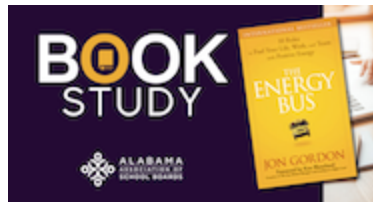
resolutions and president-elect for 2026.

HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS

Please note: The AASB host hotel room blocks at the Renaissance Montgomery Hotel & Spa and overflow block at Embassy Suites are sold out. Consider reserving a room at one of these hotels located less than a mile from the Renaissance:

- Hampton Inn & Suites Montgomery Downtown | 100 Commerce Street | [Book A Room](#)
- Double Tree by Hilton Hotel Montgomery Downtown | 120 Madison Avenue | [Book A Room](#)
- Staybridge Suites Downtown Montgomery | 275 Lee Street | [Book A Room](#)

Contact AASB or Your Board Secretary to Register for Convention



Book Study: Hop On the Energy Bus

Join AASB Director of Leadership Development Janice Stockman Oct. 22 for a virtual book discussion on Jon Gordon's book, "The Energy Bus."

Explore how to transform board dynamics with positive energy, create unified vision for student success, and enhance board-administrator collaboration.

Participants should purchase and read the book prior to the session. Earn 1 training credit hour.

Sign Up Now



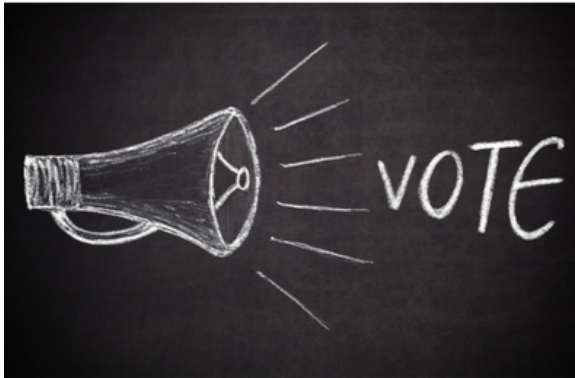
Congrats to Whole Board Training Gift Card Winners; Your Board Secretary Could be Next!

Congratulations to our first-quarter gift card winners: **Jennifer Curl** (Jacksonville), **Pauli Posey** (Winfield), and **Starla Finch** (Scottsboro). These board secretaries each won \$50 gift cards for AASB's Whole Board Training early bird promotion for July - Sept.!

Your board secretary could be next!

Schedule and complete your AASB-led training in October, November, or December 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.



District Director Elections

Congratulations to District 6 Director **Michael Webb** (Calhoun County BOE) and District 8 Director **Donna Jones** (Haleyville BOE), who ran unopposed for their first full terms on the AASB Board of Directors.

Elections Underway

Ballots have been mailed for contested races in Districts 2 and 4:

- **District 2: Mark Story** (Dallas County) and **Donnanique Washington** (Linden)
- **District 4: Dr. Chanté Ruffin** (incumbent, Alex City) and **Gail Holley** (Lanett)

Board presidents must certify that their board voted at a meeting to choose a candidate. Ballots must be received or postmarked to AASB by Oct. 31.

New Director Appointments

Congratulations to new District 3 Director **Tara Singley**, who was appointed to complete the balance of Melanie Hill's term after Hill did not seek re-election to her Dothan Board of Education seat. Also congratulations to incoming District 9 Director **Rhonda Smith** (Boaz), who will take office Nov. 3. Smith was appointed to fulfill the balance of Alice Lessman's term following Lessman's election to the Madison City Council.

[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? Simply present your current card at the gate for complimentary entry when one of your schools is playing in a state championship event.

[Request Membership Card](#)



Raising County Board Compensation

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

Board members can receive compensation of up to \$900 a month unless a higher figure is set by a local act.

[Learn More](#)

Consortium of State School Boards Association (COSSBA) Updates & Events



Registration Open for COSSBA 2026 Annual Conference

[Registration for COSSBA's 2026 National Conference](#), Education Evolution – Transformative Leadership in Changing Times, is now open. This event, slated for **March 13-16**, in Louisville, Ky., will bring together visionary school board members, superintendents, administrators and education partners from across the country for an unforgettable experience focused on impact and innovation.

In addition, COSSBA is [accepting proposals for dynamic and informative sessions](#) for both the Unified Board Alliance (UBA) Pre-conference Day and the National Conference.



Webinar: Building Stronger Schools Through Consistent and Caring Discipline

The COSSBA Unified Boards Alliance (UBA) will host a webinar on Building Stronger Schools Through Consistent & Caring Discipline **Wednesday, Nov. 19 from noon to 1 p.m. (Eastern)**.

This free webinar is part of a series designed to equip association members with the newest insights, strategies, and resources necessary for making informed decisions and driving positive change across all educational settings.

[Register now.](#)

BOARD MEMBER *Spotlight*

Meet Tara Singley
Houston County Board of Education

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

A: — “ —
I've learned that there's far more happening behind the scenes than most people realize. Running an entire school system is a complex process with many moving parts that must work together seamlessly for our students to succeed.

” —



ALABAMA ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL BOARDS

Board Member Spotlight: Tara Singley

From the classroom to the board room! Meet Tara Singley, the Houston County School Board member who spent over 20 years teaching elementary students before becoming a stay-at-home mom to six children. Discover what inspired her return to education and what she's most passionate about in this month's board member spotlight.

[Read More](#)



Overview: City School Board Election Results

How many incumbents kept their seats? Which cities saw the biggest turnover? Our new interactive dashboard breaks down election results across 84 city school board seats statewide.

Key findings: While 73% of incumbents who ran kept their seats, cities like Tallassee and Florence experienced significant changes.

[Learn More](#)



American Education Week: Join the Celebration!

Join the National Education Association in celebrating American Education Week

Nov. 17-21, 2025. 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.

Festivities honor the team of people who work in our nation's public schools, everyone from the bus driver and classroom teacher to the cafeteria worker and administrative staff, plus countless others.

Ideas and promotional materials are available on the American Education Week website.

[Learn More](#)

Scottsboro City Schools
SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH



APPLY BY
NOV. 10

APPLY: bit.ly/scottsboro-supt

AASB Job Board

Scottsboro City Schools Superintendent

The Scottsboro City Board of Education is seeking an experienced and dedicated leader with a strong background in driving student success to become its next superintendent. This search is being conducted by AASB.

The application deadline is **Nov. 10, 2025**.

[Learn More/Apply](#)



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AASB Store!**

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