



Sept. 12, 2025



State Board Requests \$6.5 Billion in FY27 Education Budget

The Alabama State Board of Education unveiled its draft FY27 Education Trust Fund budget request Thursday totaling more than \$6.5 billion.

Key priorities include:

- \$136 million for school bus fleet renewal, which Superintendent Mackey called "a looming budget crisis"
- \$25-52 million for struggling readers beyond 3rd grade
- \$50 million for school safety and security initiatives
- \$30 million to continue summer and after-school programs

Beyond budget discussions, the board is exploring a federal waiver to enhance Alabama's accountability system by adding ACT WorkKeys alongside the ACT with Writing requirement. This would better measure both college and career readiness for all students.

The board also heard that PEEHIP is requesting \$380 million to address healthcare cost increases, which would raise employer contributions from \$904 to \$1,209 monthly. Click [here](#) for the complete breakdown, including funding for the Alabama Numeracy Act, career education, and other initiatives.

[Read Full Story](#)



AASB Membership Survey: We Want to Hear From You!

AASB's biennial Membership Survey is open throughout September. This survey is sent to board members and superintendents via email and text message, so please be sure to check your phone and inbox!

Your feedback is essential, helping us understand what matters most to you and how we can better support your needs. Your insights directly inform our programming, advocacy efforts and resource development

The survey takes roughly 10 to 13 minutes to complete, and there is an opportunity at the end to enter in a drawing for a BOSE SoundLink Revolve speaker!

If you have **NOT** yet received the survey link, [please contact Director of Public Relations Dana Vandiver](#). Thanks in advance for your time!

A promotional poster for the Annual Convention & Delegate Assembly. The background is a gradient of orange and red. In the top left corner is the Alabama Association of School Boards logo. The main text reads "Annual Convention & Delegate Assembly" in white, with "Dec. 4-6, 2025 | Renaissance Montgomery Hotel & Spa" below it. The word "UNBREAKABLE" is written in large, white, block letters with a shadow effect. Below it, the phrase "Bold and Resilient Leadership" is written in yellow. In the center, a young boy in a white karate gi is shown in a dynamic pose, shouting with his mouth open. A QR code is located in the bottom right corner. A black box in the lower left contains the text "Registration & Hotel Block Open SEPT. 25". At the bottom, the website "AlabamaSchoolBoards.org/Convention" is written in white on a black background.

Mark Your Calendar: Convention Registration Opens Sept. 25!

SAVE THE DATE: Registration for AASB's annual Convention & Delegate Assembly open **Thursday, Sept. 25**. This year's event, themed "Unbreakable: Bold & Resilient Leadership," will take place December 4-6 at the Renaissance Montgomery Hotel & Spa. \$299 | 8 training hours

IMPORTANT REGISTRATION INSTRUCTIONS:

- You must first register for Convention before booking a room in AASB's block at the Renaissance Montgomery Hotel & Spa.
- **Everyone who registers on Sept. 25 will receive a separate, direct email from AASB the following day (Sept. 26)** with the booking link and details for the hotel. This process ensures all first-day registrants have an equal opportunity to secure accommodations within our group room block.
- There will be a \$75 fee for all cancellations for the convention.
- To register, contact your board secretary or AASB

Featured Speakers



Merlyna Adams

School principal-turned-quadruple amputee, Adams will share her powerful story of transforming adversity into inspiration, leading with resilience and grit.



Darryl Bellamy, Jr.

Founder of the Fearless Inside movement with data from 60,000+ student fears, Bellamy provides education leaders with strategies to foster resilience and reduce anxiety in schools.



Garrison Wynn

Bestselling author of "The Real Truth About Success," Wynn combines humor with actionable leadership insights on high-performance and effective influence.

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



Pre-Convention Workshop: Demystifying A.I.

This engaging pre-convention workshop cuts through the hype to deliver what board members actually need to know about artificial intelligence.

Gain foundational knowledge about generative AI, explore real-world education applications and experience hands-on, interactive demonstrations

designed to transform complex AI concepts into practical knowledge! \$109 (lunch included) | Thursday, Dec. 4 | 4 training hours

Delegate Assembly Information

Delegate Assembly, AASB's annual business meeting, will be held in conjunction with Convention. Delegates will vote on AASB's president-elect as well as changes to our bylaws and resolutions that will govern the Association in 2026. All members are

welcome to join Delegate Assembly, which will begin Thursday, Dec. 4 at 6:30 p.m.

Two Great Opportunities to Shine the Spotlight on Your Schools at Convention!



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. 4-6, 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. 4-6, 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**.

Fall Learning Opportunities

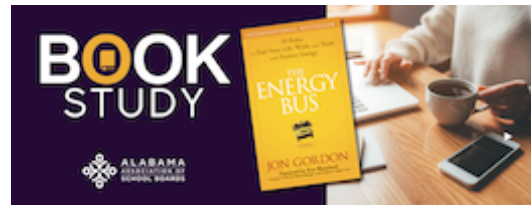


Sept. 18 Webinar: Communicating in the Boardroom

Join us **Sept. 18 from noon to 1 p.m.** to learn more about the importance of internal communication for school boards.

AASB Consultant **Aubrey Miller**, a former Shelby County school board member, will break down the ins and outs of healthy and effective communication, sharing valuable tips, strategies and best practices.

CONTACT YOUR BOARD SECRETARY OR AASB TO REGISTER



Book Study: Oct. 22 | Noon-1 p.m.

AASB is excited to announce a FREE book study on Jon Gordon's bestseller, "The Energy Bus: 10 Rules to Fuel Your Life, Work, and Team with Positive Energy."

Led by AASB Director of Leadership Development **Janice Stockman**, this book study is designed to help you: transform board dynamics through positive energy; create a unified vision for student success; and enhance collaboration between board members and administrators.

Participants should purchase the book and read it prior to the Oct. 22 virtual book study chat. Earn 1 credit hour for participating. [Sign up now.](#)

Co COMMUNICATION

Gr GROWTH

S STRATEGY

Tm TEAMWORK

In INNOVATION

Se SERVICE

LEADERSHIP FOR ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

Featured Speakers

Jimmy Casas

Ashley Lucier

Andrea Maness

Tasha Carter

Dr. Janie Jones

Fall Conference: Discover Essential Leadership Elements for Academic Achievement

You Still Have Time to Register!

Join school board leaders from across the state Oct. 5 & 6 at the Renaissance Montgomery Hotel & Spa for the essential conference that will advance your board's #1 priority: Academic Achievement.

As Alabama school continue to make impressive gains, AASB's [Fall Academy Core Conference: Leadership for Academic Achievement](#) will deliver the practical tools and insights your board needs to sustain and accelerate this progress.

- LEARN from **Jimmy Casas**, award-winning former principal, on transforming teaching into true learning
- DISCOVER how arts education boosts academic performance with **Ashley Lucier** of Amp Up Arts
- GAIN proven strategies for student-led data tracking from an informative panel of school principals and students
- MASTER the essentials of growth-mindset cultures with leadership coach **Tasha Carter**
- EXPLORE how writing across disciplines enhances literacy with **Dr. Janie Jones**

You'll leave with data-driven strategies to strengthen curriculum alignment, enhance learning outcomes and make high-impact policy decisions. \$209 | 6 training hours



Post-Conference Workshop: Social Media Survival Guide

Learn the critical do's and don'ts of social media as a board member! This practical workshop clarifies the boundaries between personal posts and official board business, covering:

- First Amendment considerations for public officials
- Clear guidelines for personal accounts versus board-related communication
- Strategies to effectively promote your school system while avoiding legal pitfalls
- Policy frameworks that protect both you and your school system

\$109 (lunch included) | 2 training hours

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



Fall District Meetings: Three Remaining Dates

Three dates remain for AASB's 2025 Fall District Meetings. If you haven't signed up, it's not too late!

D6: Monday, Sept. 15 | Jacksonville State University, **NOTE NEW LOCATION:** The meeting will still be held on the JSU campus but has been moved from the Stadium to

the **11th floor of the library.**

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

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

This year's highlights include:

- **Deep dive** on game-changing legislative and policy issues in education
- **Direct input** from attendees that shapes AASB's 2026 legislative priorities
- **Recognition** of individual and team training achievement awards
- **Celebration** of Alabama's District Superintendents of the Year

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](#)



Whole Board Training: Time Running Out for Early Bird Promotions!

AASB's exemplary training team is prepared to help you improve your skills via a **wide array of 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! Check out the following 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, and your board secretary will be entered to win a drawing for one of three \$50 gift cards!

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



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.

- [View Award Criteria](#)
- [Submit Nomination Online](#)

Deadlines & Reminders



'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 AASB at 334-277-9700 or [email Membership Coordinator Joy Brownell](#).



REMINDER: 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 Nov.

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

[View Board Compensation FAQs to learn more.](#)



District Director Elections

Congratulations to **District 6 Director Michael Webb** and **District 8 Director Donna Jones** who ran unopposed for seats on the AASB Board of Directors. Ballots will be mailed soon listing the following director nominees:

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 the board voted at the meeting to choose a candidate, and ballots must be received or postmarked to AASB by **Oct. 31**.

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.



UNIFIED BOARDS ALLIANCE WEBINAR SERIES

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.](#)



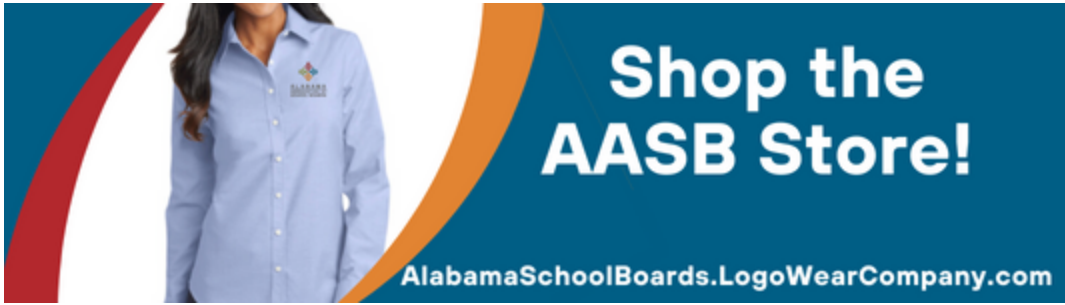
School System Spotlight: Wilcox County Board of Education

A Literacy Turnaround

Wilcox County Schools has achieved remarkable literacy results, with 96% of third-graders meeting state reading benchmarks this spring.

The system — where over 90% of students qualify for free or reduced-price lunch — is proving that reading achievement is possible for all students through strategic investments in early childhood programs, science-of-reading training, and consistent instructional leadership.

[Read More](#)



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