Training for Excellent School Board Leaders

Providing school board leaders with quality training is a key tenet of the Alabama Association of School Boards' mission statement. AASB's award-winning "school for school board members" offers coursework throughout the year in face-to-face sessions and 24 hours a day through our School Board U online leadership development portal.

AASB's training year begins July 1 and ends June 30. In addition to our four major conferences and two new board member orientation sessions each year, our staff brings training directly to school boards across the state. All year long, expert trainers hit the road to conduct whole board training workshops or customized sessions. The training can be for an individual school board or for clusters of school boards located in the same region. AASB also offers training during annual meetings in each of its nine districts. The goal is to provide high-level, research-based training in an economical and convenient way.

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KEY DATES & TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES*

**ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES ORIENTATION**
[8 hours]

**July 16, 2021**
Cost: $99 early registration, $119 on-site (space limited)
8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
AASB Office | Montgomery

**January 7, 2022**
Cost: $110 for board members/$85 for superintendents (space is limited)
8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
AASB Office | Montgomery

AASB teaches its orientation for rookie school board members in two courses. Roles & Responsibilities is the nuts and bolts of education law, ethics, finance, effective board meetings, board member expectations and other key topics to help new school board members succeed.

**EFFECTIVE BOARDS & RELATIONSHIPS ORIENTATION**
[6 hours]

**July 17, 2021**
Cost: $79 early registration, $99 on-site (space limited)
8 a.m. to 3 p.m.
AASB Office | Montgomery

January 8, 2022
Cost: $110 for board members/$85 for superintendents (space is limited)
8 a.m. to 3 p.m.
AASB Office | Montgomery

Part of AASB’s two-course orientation, Effective Boards & Relationships focuses on how members of the school board relate with one another and how the board establishes and maintains relationships with its attorney, community, policymakers and others to improve student learning.

**AASB POWER LUNCH WEBINARS**
[1 hour]
Cost: $55 individuals, $210 groups

**July 1, 2021**
Project Reset: Assessing the Pandemic’s Impact on Ala. Schools

**Sept. 2, 2021**
Strategic Planning Done Right

**Nov. 4, 2021**
Student Discipline & Due Process

**Feb. 3, 2022**
Impact of Sleep on Student Health & Performance

**April 21, 2022**
Protecting Students from Exploitation

**May 5, 2022**
PowerSchool Analytics

**FALL DISTRICT MEETINGS**
[1.5 hours]

**What School Board Leaders Should Know About Title IX**
Aug. 30 - Sept. 28, 2021
Cost: $25 (includes dinner)
Locations: TBD
6 to 8:30 p.m.

**District 1**
Thursday, Sept. 9, 2021

**District 2**
Monday, Aug. 30, 2021

**District 3**
Tuesday, Sept. 7, 2021

**District 4**
Thursday, Sept. 16, 2021

**District 5**
Tuesday, Aug. 31, 2021

**District 6**
Tuesday, Sept. 21, 2021

**District 7**
Monday, Sept. 20, 2021

**District 8**
Tuesday, Sept. 14, 2021

**District 9**
Tuesday, Sept. 28, 2021

*Event dates/times subject to change or cancellation.
This course goes beyond the basics of finance, covering strategies for passing tax referenda, understanding school accounting and aligning the school system’s finances with its mission in ways that help raise student achievement.

Wednesday, Oct. 13, 6 to 8 p.m.
Enjoy training and discussion on advocacy strategies for impacting public education policy, followed by dinner.

Cost: FREE
AASB Office | Montgomery

STATE BOARD OF ED. ADVOCACY DAY
[2 hours]
Oct. 13 & 14, 2021
Cost: FREE
AASB Office | Montgomery

Wednesday, Oct. 13, 6 to 8 p.m.
Enjoy training and discussion on advocacy strategies for impacting public education policy, followed by dinner.

Thursday, Oct. 14, 8 a.m.
Start the day at AASB’s office with a light breakfast and training session, followed by a visit to the Gordon Persons Building for the State BOE meeting and work session.

AASB ANNUAL CONVENTION & DELEGATE ASSEMBLY
[8 hours]
Dec. 2-4, 2021
Cost: $259 early registration; $279 late registration
Hyatt Regency Birmingham - The Wynfrey Hotel
1000 Riverchase Galleria
Birmingham, Ala.

AASB Convention offers numerous opportunities for school board members from across the state to interact and share ideas. In addition, expert speakers will inform school board members about hot topics related to public education, governance, education leadership and student performance.

BOARD OFFICERS WORKSHOP
[6 hours]
Feb. 5, 2022
Cost: $40
9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
AASB Office | Montgomery

ADVOCACY DAYS
[2 hours]
Cost: FREE
AASB Office | Montgomery

Feb. 8, 2022
Districts 4, 5 & 6
Feb. 22, 2022
Districts 1, 2 & 3
March 8, 2022
Districts 7, 8 & 9
March 16 & April 6, 2022
Advocacy 2.0 - Committee Days

POVERTY SIMULATION
[2.5 hours]
March 2022 (Date TBA)
Cost: $50 | 9 to 11:30 a.m.
The Westin Huntsville

"EARLY BIRD" WORKSHOP
Topic TBA [2 hours]
March 2022 (Date TBA)
Cost: $75 early registration; $95 late registration
1 to 3 p.m.
The Westin Huntsville

SPRING ACADEMY CORE CONFERENCE
Leadership for Financial Accountability [6 hours]
March 2022 (Dates TBA)
Cost: $155 early registration; $175 late registration
The Westin Huntsville

This course goes beyond the basics of finance, covering strategies for passing tax referenda, understanding school accounting and aligning the school system’s finances with its mission in ways that help raise student achievement.

PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOP [3.5 hours]
June 17, 2022
Cost: $150 early registration; $170 late registration
The Perdido Beach Resort
Orange Beach

SUMMER CONFERENCE
[6 hours]
June 17-19, 2022
Cost: $259 early registration; $279 late registration
The Perdido Beach Resort
Orange Beach
Interactive Training for Excellent Boards

Quality training is one way the Alabama Association of School Boards accomplishes its mission to develop excellent school board leaders. Our exemplary training team comprises AASB staff members with decades of experience working with and for boards as well as a cadre of former board members and superintendents who were schooled in the real world. Improve your skills via 46 interactive courses created to meet boards’ needs. The state requires 2 hours of whole board training per year for board-superintendent teams, but more importantly, research says school boards are more effective when all members of a school board learn together as a team.

Choose from 46 standard workshop topics within 7 key categories, or request a custom workshop to meet your board’s needs.

Plan Ahead!

Early birds SAVE 10%

Get a jump on earning your 2021-22 state-required whole board training and save by scheduling your AASB-provided whole board training for July, August or September 2021.

Prices range from $550 to $950 (plus mileage), or join up with other school boards in your area to share the cost.

To learn more, visit AlabamaSchoolBoards.org/WBT
AASB’s electronic learning platform, School Board U, is a self-paced, online leadership development portal that gives school board members access to board training materials, courses and resources to grow skills and improve school board effectiveness. All core courses within AASB’s School Board Member Academy are available in School Board U, as well as a host of electives and archived webinars. Courses range from 30 minutes to 8 hours, and several options are free! Among the available courses:

**Online Courses. Any Time, Any Place, At Your Pace.**

**CORE COURSES**
- Leadership for Academic Achievement
- Leadership for Community Engagement
- Leadership for Creating Positive Climate & Culture
- Leadership for Developing a Highly Effective Staff
- Leadership for Financial Accountability
- Leadership for Policy & Planning

**ELECTIVE COURSES**
- Eight Habits of Highly Effective Boards
- The Board's Role in Budgeting
- The Board's Role in Personnel Hearings
- Students' Rights Workshop
- Technology Trends in Learning
- NSBA's Key Work of School Boards
- Beginner's Guide to Communications Patterns
- Board Evaluation Best Practices
- Religion in Public Schools

**ARCHIVED WEBINARS**
- ADA & FMLA Issues
- Avoiding & Responding to a Data Breach
- Boosters, Clubs & Other Non-Public Funds
- Board-Community Collaboration to Eliminate Poverty as an Education Barrier
- Breaking Barriers to Student Learning
- Decreasing the Achievement Gap with STEM
- Drawing the Line: School Boards & 2020 Redistricting
- Effective Board-Superintendent Relations
- Empowering Students Through Social Emotional Learning
- Financial Data Trends
- Impact the Narrative: Community Engagement Bonus Session
- The Key Work of School Boards
- Politics on Campus: Guidance for School Board Candidates
- School Finance Bootcamp
- Storming the Castle: Calming Angry Constituents
- Student Protests & Teacher Walkouts
- Student Discipline & Bullying
- Telling Your Story: Tools & Tips for School Systems
- Title IX in the #MeToo Era
- Title IX & Athletics
- The Alabama Literacy Act
- What School Board Members Need to Know About Special Ed
- What New FLSA Overtime Rules Mean for Your School System

To learn more, visit [AlabamaSchoolBoards.org/SchoolBoardU](http://AlabamaSchoolBoards.org/SchoolBoardU)
AASB’s “school” for school board members provides ongoing training on important education, legal and governance issues. School board members are automatically enrolled in the School Board Member Academy and notified of face-to-face and online leadership development opportunities.

To earn the various Academy awards, school board members attend AASB conferences worth a specified number of training “hours” and participate in core curriculum courses, striving for four achievement levels. Upon completing the Academy, school board members who continue to develop their boardsmanship skills annually can attain the distinction of Master School Board Member and ultimately have their names added to the Master Honor Roll. Awards are based on hours earned each Academy year, which begins July 1 and ends June 30.

**ACADEMY ACHIEVEMENT LEVELS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LEVEL 01</th>
<th>LEVEL 02</th>
<th>LEVEL 03</th>
<th>LEVEL 04</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>25 HOURS</td>
<td>50 HOURS</td>
<td>75 HOURS</td>
<td>100 HOURS + ALL 8 CORE COURSES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Receives a certificate sent to local board for presentation.</td>
<td>Receives a certificate sent to local board for presentation.</td>
<td>Receives a certificate sent to local board for presentation.</td>
<td>Receives a plaque.</td>
</tr>
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</table>

**SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS**

- **MASTER**: Level 4, plus 15 hours, including one additional core course. Receives a plaque that can be updated each year Master status is earned.
- **MASTER HONOR ROLL**: Earns Master status for five consecutive years and participates in one Poverty Simulation and one Advocacy Day experience by fifth year. Receives a gold name badge and a Master Honor Roll plate for the Master plaque.
AASB oversees a variety of awards and recognition programs for school board members. These programs include both group and individual awards and a special statewide recognition month. Learn more below about how these distinguished honors are recognized.

**MASTER SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER**
Recognizes board members who have completed all four levels of the AASB School Board Member Academy and continue their training from year to year. Their accomplishment is recognized at AASB’s Annual Convention in December.

**MASTER HONOR ROLL**
Recognizes board members who have earned Master School Board Member status five consecutive years. These members are honored during AASB’s Annual Convention in December.

**TEAM TRAINING ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**
Formerly known as the President’s Award, the Team Training Achievement Award recognizes school boards that have had 60 percent or more of their members attend at least three AASB conferences in an academy year and, in that same year, have had all members of their boards meet state-mandated training requirements. The award is presented at AASB’s Fall District Meetings.

**ALL-STATE SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER AWARD**
AASB’s highest honor, the All-State School Board Member Award commends up to five past or present school board members across the state who have exhibited exemplary boardmanship. Nominations are accepted in the early fall, and winners are announced during a special awards luncheon at AASB’s Annual Convention in December.

**SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER RECOGNITION MONTH**
School board members devote countless hours to help provide an excellent education for every child and to give citizens a voice in education decision making. To acknowledge boards’ hard work, Alabama celebrates School Board Member Recognition Month each January, honoring local board members with thank-you letters, certificates and events for their commitment to Alabama’s schoolchildren.
### WHAT THE LAW REQUIRES

Alabama’s School Board Governance Improvement Act requires school board member training and new board member orientation. AASB offers a “school for school board members” through its School Board Member Academy. Each academy training year runs **July 1-June 30**.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Deadlines for State-Mandated Orientation</th>
<th>Roles &amp; Responsibilities Orientation (R&amp;R)</th>
<th>Effective Boards &amp; Relationships Orientation (EB&amp;R)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All newly seated board members</td>
<td>✓ Must take within one year of the July 1 after taking office</td>
<td>✓ Must take within one year of the July 1 after taking office</td>
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<tr>
<th>Annual Training Requirements</th>
<th>2 Hours of Eligible Whole Board Training</th>
<th>4 Hours of Eligible Training * may include individual and/or group training hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All board members</td>
<td>✓ Must take</td>
<td>✓ Must take</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**The 2021-2022 training year ends June 30, 2022.** State law requires annually 6 hours of total training (includes 2 whole board training hours for all board members). The law also requires orientation courses for new school board members. AASB’s two-part orientation fulfills the state’s orientation requirement as well as the state ethics course requirement for public officials. Orientation hours count toward fulfilling 4 hours of the state’s 6-hour annual training requirement. Online orientation and other courses are available at AlabamaSchoolBoards.org/SchoolBoardU. Not all circumstances may be accounted for in this illustration. Some considerations made for certain unique or exceptional circumstances.

To learn more, call 800-562-0601 or email training@AlabamaSchoolBoards.org with the subject “Leadership Development.”
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Whole Board Training &amp; 2 AASB Online Courses</td>
<td>2 + 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whole Board Training &amp; AASB Fall or Spring Conference</td>
<td>2 + 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>8 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whole Board Training &amp; AASB Orientation</td>
<td>2 + 6-8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>8-10 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whole Board Training Fall District Meeting 3 AASB Webinars</td>
<td>2 + 1.5 + 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whole Board Training Fall District Meeting Poverty Simulation</td>
<td>2 + 1.5 + 2.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Board Retreat or Full-Day Board Training</td>
<td>6-8 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whole Board Training 2 AASB Webinars Advocacy Day</td>
<td>2 + 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whole Board Training AASB Convention OR Summer Conference</td>
<td>2 + 7-8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9-10 hours</td>
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</tbody>
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