



## FOR YOUR *information*

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

**Feb. 12, 2021**



### **SBOE Announces Intent to Adopt Rule Requiring FAFSA as Graduation Requirement**

State Board of Education members held a spirited discussion during Thursday's meeting before voting to announce the board's intent to adopt a proposed rule requiring all high school seniors to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) prior to graduation.

If adopted, the new requirement in the Alabama Administrative Code would begin with the FY 2021-22 graduating class. Any proposed rule by the board requires a 45-day public comment period before being considered for final adoption. A final vote could come as early as the April SBOE meeting.

During the State Superintendent's Report, Dr. Eric Mackey thanked Gov. Kay Ivey and the Alabama Department of Public Health for opening up vaccines for teachers. He also informed the board of the ADPH's plan to release new quarantine guidelines that state once teachers have received full immunity (two weeks after the second shot), they will no longer be required to quarantine due to exposure in most cases.

The work session following Thursday's meeting included discussion and updates on a range of topics including Teacher Quantity and Quality Roundtable recommendations, the State Recovery Plan to address COVID-19 related learning loss, new ELA and CTE Courses of Study, the Alabama Literacy Act and more.

[Read More](#)

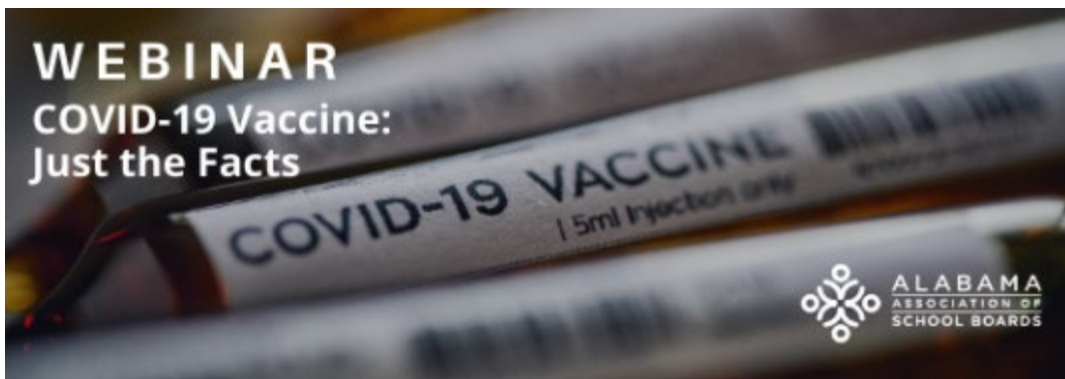


## 2021 Student Video Contest Now Open

We're accepting submissions now through April 23 for AASB's 10th annual statewide student video contest. This year's contest is open to Alabama public school students in grades 4-12. More than \$3,000 and bragging rights are up for grabs!

The "Road to Success" student video contest showcases excellence in teaching, student creativity and the myriad ways Alabama's public schools are preparing students for success.

[View Contest Details](#)



**Tuesday, Feb. 23. | Noon**

As school systems across the state -- and the nation -- work to offer information and resources to assist employees in receiving the COVID-19 vaccine, questions about the distribution process, eligibility phases and safety and efficacy of the vaccine. Join us **Tuesday, Feb. 23 at noon** for AASB's free webinar, *COVID-19 Vaccine: Just the Facts*.

**Dr. Mary McIntyre**, chief medical officer for the Alabama Department of Public Health, will share the facts and debunk myths about COVID-19 vaccines – and help us all know what to expect as vaccine distribution progresses. McIntyre also will address frequently asked questions and share information about the efficacy and safety of the new vaccines.

### Do You Have Specific Questions?

We encourage you to use our convenient online form to [submit your questions in advance](#) of the webinar. Our staff will work to ensure the webinar covers your most pressing questions and concerns.

*NOTE: This webinar will last approximately 30-45 minutes. No training hours will be awarded.*

[Register Now](#)



## March Conference

The countdown to AASB's 2021 Spring Academy Core Conference, *Leadership for Policy & Planning*, is on! Although we've reached maximum in-person capacity with social distancing for both the main conference and the early bird workshop, *Conflict Ahead: Navigating Difficult Conversations and People*, you can still participate via our convenient virtual option.

>> [Register Now for Virtual Early Bird Workshop](#)

>> [Register Now for Virtual Conference](#)

[View More March Conference Info](#)



## Summer Conference Registration Opens Feb. 25

Mark your calendar! Registration and hotel reservations for the AASB Summer Conference will open Thursday, Feb. 25. The event also will feature the popular Summer Law Clinic. This year's conference will take place at the Lodge at Gulf State Park. Members must first register for the conference before booking a room at the Lodge.

Stay tuned in the coming days for additional conference details, including attendance options and COVID-19 precautions.

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## Has Your Board Completed/ Scheduled Whole Board Training?

The 2020-21 training year deadline is **June 30**. Has your board completed or scheduled its state-mandated Whole Board Training? If not, now is the time. Slots will begin filling quickly this spring, so be sure to contact us soon to get on the calendar.

[Browse our Whole Board Training Catalog](#) to choose from more than 40 available training topics, or contact us to discuss a custom training option. Both remote and in-person trainings are available to meet your needs.

[Request Training](#)



## Simbli Promo: There's Still Time to Save \$1k

There's still time to take advantage of an exciting AASB members-only promotion offered by our partner, [Simbli by eBOARDsolutions](#). From now until Feb. 28, receive \$1,000 off any new Simbli module subscription! This offer is available for both new and existing Simbli customers.

Nearly half of Alabama's school boards use Simbli's award winning board management software, which includes Meetings, Policy, Planning and Evaluation modules designed to help you save time and get more done.

[Learn More](#)



## Last Call for Committee Volunteers

Would you like to take a more active role in AASB? Serving on an AASB committee is a great way to grow your involvement!

**Today (Feb. 12) is the deadline** for volunteers to serve on an AASB committee. Incoming committee members will be appointed for one-year terms. Most committees meet once or twice a year.

Committees include Advocacy, Board Training Advisory, Bylaws, Resolutions, Equity and Nominating Committees.

[Learn More](#)



# Just Ask Jayne

## Can School Board Members Work as Substitute Teachers?

**Dear Jayne:** Like many systems, we can't find enough substitute teachers to cover our classes while teachers are absent. One of our board members has offered to work as a substitute. Is this allowed?

[View Answer](#)



## PARCA Annual Forum to Address Broadband Infrastructure

Registration is now open for the 2021 PARCA Annual Forum, *Alabama Online: Failure to Connect*. This year's forum is a weeklong, virtual conversation on the impact, limitations and divides caused by Alabama's current broadband network. The forum is free; however, registration is required to participate.

[Learn More](#)



## Celebrate Public Schools Week: Feb. 22-26

Whether public schools are open virtually or in person this year, classes will look and operate quite differently. But our commitment as educators remains the same: We are working for the best interest of all of our students. We will keep them safe, learning, and growing, one student at a time. Celebrate Public Schools Week Feb. 22-26.  
#PublicSchoolProud

[Learn More](#)



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