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It's a Date!

Nov. 12-16

[American Education Week](#)

Nov. 15 (8 hours)

[Financial Data Trends Webinar](#)

Dec. 6

Delegate Assembly
Birmingham, Ala.

Dec. 6 (8 hours)

[AASB Annual Convention](#)
Birmingham, Ala.

January 2019

School Board Member
Recognition Month

Jan. 11 (8 hours)

[Roles & Responsibilities Orientation](#)
Montgomery, Ala.

Jan. 12 (6 hours)

[Effective Boards & Relationships](#)
Montgomery, Ala.

Feb. 7 (1 hour)

Webinar

Feb. 23

Board President's
Workshop
Montgomery, Ala.

March 1

Early Bird Workshop
Birmingham, Ala.

March 1

Poverty Simulation
Birmingham, Ala.

March 1 & 2

March Conference
Birmingham, Ala.

State Board Approves FY20 Budget Request, Significant Funding Increases

The State Board of Education unanimously approved its proposed [FY20 budget request](#) Thursday, with an overall \$338 million increase -- \$295 million of which is a direct increase to the state Foundation Program.

State Superintendent Dr. Eric Mackey explained during the work session that the proposal listed examples under Other Current Expense (OCE) to justify seeking a \$63 million increase, assuring the board that the explanatory language does not restrict local school systems' use of OCE funding. OCE is embedded in the Foundation Program and calculated as a per-teacher appropriation to fund support staff salary and benefits, teacher leave, utilities and more.

Mackey gave an overview of several other requested funding increases. An additional \$3 million was added to the student assessment line item to cover additional costs to keep a formative Scantron assessment and increased costs of alternative assessments. Mackey said educators are enthusiastically supporting the request for an \$8 million increase for special education pre-k.

He also highlighted a \$10 million increase for Alabama Reading Initiative (ARI) funds, which are appropriated separately from the Foundation Program. Mackey indicated he was going to strengthen oversight of ARI and in-service centers to ensure these programs are meeting needs consistently and efficiently.

In response to questions about priorities, Mackey informed the board that he will be rolling out a new strategic plan in the next few months.

Comment: Proposed Courses of Study

The board discussed the new proposed courses of study for [mathematics](#), [physical education](#) and [health](#) for which the ALSDE is seeking public comment through Nov. 30. The new math course of study dominated much of the board's discussion. The elementary grades have a few proposed changes, such as introducing the concept of counting coins and money before third grade, but the

biggest proposed change is for middle school math. Students would have two pathways to include either the basic seventh- and eighth-grade math or an advanced track to incorporate Algebra I concepts within the seventh and eighth grades. Both tracks would lead to geometry in ninth grade. Algebra would then be offered in 10th and 11th grades, while students who took the advanced track would be able to progress to higher math.

Board members had questions about offerings leading to different career fields. Board Vice President Dr. Cynthia McCarty (District 6) noted that she did not see the availability of discrete mathematics (which includes trigonometry) as a precursor for computer sciences.

Mackey encouraged board members to seek feedback and public comment to be submitted by the Nov. 30 deadline. The course of study committees will meet in December to review and respond to feedback, and the board will review the proposals in depth at the February work session before voting on the courses of study in March. Below is additional information on the courses of study:

[MATHEMATICS COURSE OF STUDY](#)

- [One-page summary and flow chart](#)
- [Public Comment Forum](#)

[PHYSICAL ED COURSE OF STUDY](#)

- [One-page summary with changes](#)

Public Comment Forums

- [K-5](#)
- [Grades 6-8](#)
- [Grades 9-12](#)

[HEALTH COURSE OF STUDY](#)

- [One-page summary with changes](#)

Public Comment Forums

- [K-5](#)
- [Grades 6-8](#)
- [Grades 9-12](#)

At-Risk Funds

The work session agenda also included dis-



discussion about the disbursement of [at-risk funds](#) appropriated to the ALSDE. The ALSDE uses a formula dictated by the Legislature's intent to disburse 50 percent of the funds based on four factors: not meeting proficiency standards; poverty; special education; English language learners. A weighted and non-weighted formula is used to award funds on a per-pupil basis. The budget directs the remaining 50 percent of these funds to be distributed at the discretion of the state superintendent. Each school system is eligible to receive at-risk funds and must submit an application for the grant. Board members requested a ranked listing of school systems as a result of the formula and a list of systems that did not apply for the funds. Mackey said requests for the funds were so great, much of the discretionary amount shifted to the formula-based requests. Betty Peters (District 2) questioned whether this is the right way to handle at-risk funding and requested information about vendors that contract with local systems for those funds.

Mackey shared that three systems receive the greatest portion of at-risk funding: Montgomery, Jefferson and Madison Counties. He explained that there are millions more in requests than funding available. The ALSDE reviewed all applications for the discretionary requests and determined that no new programs would be funded. Instead, the department funded at 75 percent existing programs such as the YMCA and other after-school programs. He explained the programs all do good work, but there is no way to stretch the money to cover all the requests. Moving forward, the ALSDE will work to incorporate priorities such as literacy and numeracy to add weights to application requests.

Other Board Business

Mackey briefed board members about efforts to adopt a [Praxis subject assessment for computer science certification](#). There currently is no independent certification to teach computer science. The ALSDE will work to keep those currently teaching while also providing a certification pathway to fill the growing need for computer science educators. The plan would also allow teachers to expand their practice by taking the additional Praxis for computer science. In addition, the board received recommendations for digital literacy and computer science textbooks from a [committee report](#). Mackey told board members the update to [professional learning standards](#) would be on their December board meeting agenda.

Next Board Meeting and Work Session

The board is planning to meet for a retreat December 12, before its next scheduled Board work session and meeting December 13.

Nov. 15 Webinar: Financial Data Trends



AASB Director of Business & Operations **Amber Anderson** will share data trends essential to a school system's financial health. Tune in Thursday, Nov. 15, from noon to 1 p.m. to learn more about the benefits of examining past financial data to uncover future trends

and to get strategies to help transform your system's financial situation. [Register now.](#)

American Education Week

American Education Week kicks off nationwide on Nov. 12 and ends Nov. 16. Each day during the week will spotlight distinguished educators who play an important role in creating successful schools more than 50 million k-12 students across the country. [Learn more about how you can participate.](#)

Annual Convention: Have You Registered?



AASB is gearing up for its Annual Convention Dec. 6-8 at the Hyatt Regency Birmingham -The Wynfrey Hotel. More than 500 school board members and education leaders from around the state are expected to attend the event.

This year's theme is "**Choose Hope.**" Our general session speakers include former Sandy Hook Elementary School teacher and shooting survivor, **Kaitlyn M. Roig-Debellis** (left), and former NFL player **Siran Stacy** (middle). They'll share their moving stories of overcoming tragedy and despair and inspire attendees to press forward in the face of any obstacle. Vital Smarts Crucial Conversations trainer, **Steve Childs** (right), will explain how to facilitate conversations that help boards thrive when stakes are high. This award-winning training has been used by fortune 500 countries from around the world to foster organizational conversation on emotionally-driven topics.



In addition to Delegate Assembly, AASB's annual business meeting on Dec. 6, other Convention highlights include the annual Academy Awards Luncheon on Dec. 7, which will recognize members who have advanced in AASB's School Board Member Academy and honor the 2018 All-State School Board Award recipients, AASB's highest award. This year's All-State School Board Award winners include: **Angie Bates**, Madison County Board of Education; **Joan Doyle**, Talladega County Board of Education; **Gary Mims**, Tuscaloosa County Board of Education; **Judy Pounders**, Russellville Board of Education; and **Jimmy Upton**, Satsuma Board of Education.

You also won't want to miss the Friday evening welcome reception, the exhibit showcase and special student performances by the winners of this year's Student Entertainment Social Media Contest, the **Foley High School Steel Band** (Baldwin County Schools) and the **B.B. Comer Jazz Ensemble** (Talladega County Schools).

[Register now](#) for this opportunity to network with your peers, hone your boardmanship skills and earn up to 8 training hours!

New Board Member? Sign up for Orientation

AASB will offer the [Roles & Responsibilities Orientation](#) Fri., Jan. 11. This 8-hour course covers basics such as ethics, governance for student achievement, legal and finance issues as well as other key topics to help new board members succeed. Also join us Sat., Jan. 12 for the [Effective Boards & Relationships Orientation](#), a 6-hour course to help new board members and superintendents learn more about effective board leadership, community engagement and more. [The School Board Governance Improvement Act](#) requires school board members complete both orientation trainings.