

# advocate for SCHOOLS



2024  
ENACTMENTS

Updated 6/24/2024



## 2024 Regular Legislative Session Enactments

The following includes a list of **ENACTED** education-related legislation tracked by AASB during the most recent Regular Session including general bills, local bills and joint resolutions.

Act No.	Bill Synopsis	<u>GENERAL BILLS</u>	Bill No./Sponsor Effective Date
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### ETF Budget, Pay Raise and Supplemental Appropriations

**2024-351** **ETF Budget (FY25)** - Appropriates \$9.3 billion from the Education Trust Fund (ETF) for the support, maintenance and development of public education, debt service and capital outlay for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2025. [View budget spreadsheet.](#)

**H.145 (Garrett)**  
*Effective October 1, 2024*

[Click here for Updated State Salary Matrix —Teachers, Nurses, TEAMS](#)

**2024-292** **Pay Raise** - Provides a 2% pay increase to public education employees beginning with the fiscal year 2024-25.

**H.146 (Garrett)**  
*Effective October 1, 2024*

**2024-428** **ETF Supplemental Appropriation (FY24)** - Provides a **\$651.2 million** supplemental appropriation (excess ETF receipts) for multiple entities. **K-12 allocation: \$158.5 million**, which includes: \$15 million for new school buses; \$10 million for Career and Technical Education (CTE) equipment, consumables and supplies; \$22.9 million to fund current (FY24) school nurse matrix; \$8.1 million for unanticipated Foundation Program shortfalls; \$750,000 for the Principal Act; \$15 million for summer reading camps; \$17 million for College and Career Readiness grants; \$5 million for the development of a struggling readers beyond 3rd grade program; \$13.8 million for the Alabama Student Information Management System (ASIMS) and \$9 million for the charter school grant program. The supplemental also provides \$30 million for the Lt. Governor’s K-12 Capital Grant Program; \$51 million for the CHOOSE Act Fund and administration and \$14.9 million for legislative community service grants.

**H.144 (Garrett)**  
*Effective May 16, 2024*

**2024-429** **EAT Supplemental Appropriation** - Appropriates \$726 million to K-12 from the Education Advancement and Technology (EAT) Fund to be used in FY24. It authorizes funds to be used for repairs and deferred maintenance; classroom instructional supplies; insurance for facilities; capital outlay; transportation; acquisition/purchase of education technology or for school security.

**Note: The State Department of Education (SDE) will notify LEAs of individual allocations along with application for qualified expenditures. The deadline to submit applications for SDE review is typically mid-August.**

**H.147 (Garrett)**  
*Effective May16, 2024*

GENERAL BILLS, contd.**School Choice Bill**2024-21

**CHOOSE Act** - Establishes the Creating Hope and Opportunity for Our Students' Education (CHOOSE) Act of 2024, an education savings account (ESA) program for qualifying students, education expenses, and education service providers **beginning in the 2025-2026 school year**. The program is open to all students in the 2027-2028 school year. The CHOOSE Act Fund will provide refundable tax credits of up to \$7,000 per student enrolled in a participating school, \$2,000 per homeschool student, and \$4,000 per homeschool family with more than one participating student. It requires an annual legislative appropriation of at least \$100 million.

**H.129 (Garrett)***Effective March 7, 2024*[Click here for Quick Reference Chart of CHOOSE Act provisions](#)**Education Policy and Procedure**2024-34

**Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Act** - Prohibits public K-12 local boards, state agencies and public universities from sponsoring DEI programs defined in the bill as classes, training, programs and events where attendance is based on a person's race, sex, gender identity, ethnicity, national origin or sexual orientation. **Note: Nothing in the act would prevent employees or contractors of state agencies, public K-12 local boards or public universities from responding to questions raised about divisive concepts or DEI while participating in orientations, course work or trainings as part of their job duties.**

**S.129 (Barfoot)***Effective October 1, 2024*[Click here for DEI Act FAQs for School Boards](#)2024-35

**Parents' Right to Know Act** - Requires public pre-K-12 schools to post class curricula on school websites and permit parents/guardians of enrolled students to examine instructional and supplemental materials upon request.

**S.48 (Reed)***Effective June 1, 2024*2024-126

**Alabama Career Pathways Act** - Part of Governor Kay Ivey's "Working for Alabama" legislative package, it reduces the requirement of four math and four science credits (4x4) to just two math and two science credits (2 x 2) and creates a new high school diploma pathway for students entering the workforce immediately after graduation.

**S.253 (Chesteen)***Effective October 1, 2024*2024-209

**Virtual Testing** - Authorizes remote testing of full-time virtual students for state assessments beginning with the 2025-26 school year.

**H.95 (Stubbs)***Effective January 1, 2025*2024-278

**Public Records Requests** - Requires state agencies to acknowledge and respond with denial or fulfillment of a public records request.

**S.270 (Orr)***Effective October 1, 2024*2024-262

**Student Discipline Due Process** - Establishes a uniform process for the expulsion, long-term suspension and alternative school placement of public school students. The principal shall consider additional factors such as the student's age, disciplinary history and seriousness of the violation before recommending or initiating disciplinary action. The local board would provide for a hearing when serious disciplinary action is recommended. At this hearing, the student and the school will be afforded an opportunity to present their case to the local board, with evidence such as audio or video recordings, documents and written statements. Following the hearing, the local board will issue a written decision citing the code of student conduct or state law and the appropriate appeals process.

**H.188 (Collins)***Effective October 1, 2024*[Click here for Student Discipline Due Process FAQs for School Boards](#)

GENERAL BILLS, contd.

- 2024-296** **Assistant Principal Duties** - Defines role of assistant principal as assisting the principal with the administration and enforcement of board policy, including student discipline and applicable laws. It also requires each public K-12 school to have at least one assistant principal if funding available.
- H.22 (Gidley)**  
*Effective October 1, 2024*
- 2024-299** **Paraprofessional/Classroom Aide Experience Credit** - Allows certified teachers hired after June 1, 2024, with at least four years of full-time public school experience as a paraprofessional or classroom aide, to receive one year of experience credit for every two years of full-time experience earned in a public school as a paraprofessional or classroom aide.
- S.217 (Chesteen)**  
*Effective June 1, 2024*
- 2024-331** **School Board Compensation** - An AASB priority bill, this act will authorize local boards to increase their maximum monthly compensation rate from \$600 to \$900 and incents compliance with the continuing education and training requirements in the School Board Governance Improvement Act of 2012. The compensation of any board member not in compliance will be held in escrow by the local board until the member becomes compliant.
- S.175 (Chesteen)**  
*Effective October 1, 2024*
- 2024-344** **Property Tax Assessment Cap** - Caps the percentage growth on local revenue from property tax assessment at 7% year-over-year. This cap was increased from 3% in its original version, which will limit its negative fiscal impact on local communities and schools. The cap will sunset in 2027.
- H.73 (Pettus)**  
*Effective October 1, 2024*
- 2024-347** **First Grade Readiness Act** - Allows a student who has not completed kindergarten to enroll in the first grade upon completion of a developmentally appropriate readiness assessment. For the first year of implementation in 2025-2026, a student may not be prevented from enrolling in first grade based on their performance on the assessment. Beginning in the 2026-2027 school year, a student who does not demonstrate readiness on the assessment will be placed in kindergarten. It extends the six-year-old cutoff date from September 1 to December 31 for students seeking entry to first grade without completing kindergarten.
- H.113 (Warren)**  
*Effective July 1, 2024*
- 2024-352** **Child Eligibility to Work Permit** - Removes the requirement for 14- and 15-year-olds to have a school-issued work permit in order to be employed.
- S.53 (Orr)**  
*Effective June 1, 2024*
- 2024-353** **State Textbook Committee for Periodicals** - Adds periodicals, including magazines, newspapers, and journals, to content that must be reviewed by the State Textbook Committee.
- S.54 (Orr)**  
*Effective October 1, 2024*
- 2024-360** **Assistant Principal Contracts** - Gives school boards the option to hire assistant principals, assistant superintendents, and assistant chief school financial officers on a contractual basis, pending a board vote on this action, for those hired after July 1, 2024.
- S.33 (Elliott)**  
*Effective July 1, 2024*
- 2024-389** **Nonpublic School Transfer Students Excluded from State Report Card** - Excludes nonpublic school transfer students from a school's academic achievement grade on the state report card during the first three years of enrollment.
- H.331 (Woods)**  
*Effective October 1, 2024*
- 2024-444** **Information Technology Directors** - Renames K-12 public school technology coordinators to technology directors and provides minimum qualifications. Individuals serving in this role are required to complete a training program and continuing education instruction to be provided by Alabama Leaders in Educational Technology (ALET). It also updates the Lt. Governor's K-12 Capital Grant Program, permitting awardees to revise their initial grant applications.
- H.439 (Baker)**  
*Effective June 1, 2024*

GENERAL BILLS, contd.

**2024-409** **Teachers' Bill of Rights** - Creates a process for teachers to exclude/remove students from the classroom for disruptive behavior beginning in the 2024-25 school year. The act lists five infractions that can be considered disruptive behavior: disorderly conduct; behavior that obstructs the teaching or learning process of others in the classroom; threatening, abusing, intimidating or attempting to intimidate an education employee or another student; willfully disobeying an education employee; and using abusive or profane language directed at an education employee. It requires a school to document each time students are referred out of the classroom. It also requires each local school board to adopt an appeals process for teachers who disagree with their principal's decision related to student disciplinary action and provides legal immunity for education employees related to the performance of their duties.

**S.157 (Orr)**  
Effective June 1, 2024

[Click here for Teachers' Bill of Rights FAQs for School Boards](#)

### School Safety and Health

**2024-114** **CPR Instruction/High School Students** - Requires public school students in grades 9-12 to receive health class instruction and hands-on practicing on Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and the use of an automated external defibrillator (AED) beginning in the 2024-2025 school year.  
**Note: This legislation will also be known as the Tim Melson Act.**

**S.59 (Orr)**  
Effective October 1, 2024

**2024-221** **Fentanyl Prevention/Drug Poisoning Awareness Program** - Adds fentanyl prevention and drug poisoning awareness to the drug and alcohol education and prevention programs provided to public school grades 6-12 beginning in the 2024-2025 school year  
**Note: This legislation will also be known as the Price Hornsby Act.**

**H.280 (Lovvorn)**  
Effective June 1, 2024

**2024-356** **School Security Inspection & Grants** - Creates a school security inspection and grant program requiring all K-12 public schools to be inspected at least once every five years based on school security criteria and rubric established by the State Board of Education (SBOE). The school security inspector shall provide the rating and recommendations for improvement for each school to the local school board. The Alabama Law Enforcement Agency (ALEA) will collaborate with local school boards to provide school mapping for each school. When funded, schools will be eligible to apply for grants from the School Safety Fund based on their security rating.  
**Note: This legislation shall be known as the School Security Act.**

**S.98 (Orr)**  
Effective October 1, 2024

**2024-392** **K-12 Cardiac Emergency Response Plan** - Requires each K-12 public and nonpublic school to develop and implement a cardiac emergency response plan beginning in the 2025-2026 school year. This will include staff training and placing on school property Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs), funded with a corresponding \$5 million ETF line item.  
**Note: This legislation will also be known as the John Wesley Act.**

**H.290 (Oliver)**  
Effective October 1, 2024

### Military Friendly

**2024-328** **Military Children with Special Needs Remote Enrollment** - Enables students with special needs who are children of active-duty military personnel to remotely enroll and have their Section 504 plan, individualized family service plan or individualized education plan, including any records, prior evaluations or reevaluations, to be transferred prior to arriving in this state.

**S.211 (Chesteen)**  
Effective July 1, 2024

**2024-397** **Military Child Athletic Participation** - Gives students who are the child of a full-time active-duty military parent immediate eligibility to participate in interscholastic athletics, regardless of the student's date of enrollment.

**H.251 (Robertson)**  
Effective October 1, 2024

GENERAL BILLS, contd.**Retirement System Bills**

**2024-279** **Retired Elected Officials in TRS/ERS** - Allows a retiree serving as a local elected superintendent of education to receive retirement benefits while in their elected public office as long as their job compensation does not exceed the annual earning limits.

**S.12 (Elliott)**  
*Effective June 1, 2024*

**2024-289** **Termination of TRS Benefits/Sex Crime Conviction** - Terminates retirement benefits for TRS members who have been convicted of certain sex offenses involving a student or minor.

**S.54 (Orr)**  
*Effective July 1, 2024*

LOCAL BILLS

**2024-102** **Dallas County** - Sets \$1,000/monthly compensation per board member.

**H.2 (Chestnut)**  
*Effective June 1, 2024*

**2024-111** **Pell City [C/A]** - Provides a constitutional amendment that, if approved by voters, would change the board of education from elected to appointed.

**S.141 (Bell)**  
*Effective April 23, 2024*

**2024-165** **Pell City** - Enabling act to change the board of education from elected to appointed, pending ratification of constitutional amendment by voters.

**S.142 (Bell)**  
*Effective May 2, 2024*

**2024-163** **Tuscaloosa City [C/A]** - Provides a constitutional amendment that, if approved by voters, would specify that territory subject to the jurisdiction and control of the Tuscaloosa City Board of Education shall only include the territory within the corporate limits of the City of Tuscaloosa.

**S.86 (Allen)**  
*Effective May 2, 2024*

**2024-211** **Tuscaloosa City** - Upon approval of a referendum, authorizes the City of Tuscaloosa to levy and collect an additional 11.5 mills (for a total of 25.0 mills) ad valorem tax for public school purposes.

**H.175 (Almond)**  
*Effective May 6, 2024*

**2024-166** **Autauga County** - Authorizes the Autauga County Board of Education to insure school buildings and property through the State Insurance Fund or use an insurance company approved by the board.

**S.156 (Chambliss)**  
*Effective June 1, 2024*

**2024-257** **Autauga County [C/A]** - Provides a constitutional amendment that, if approved by voters, would provide for the levy and collection of a special school ad valorem tax in the amount of 7 mills (.70 cents on each \$100 dollars) to be collected beginning October 1, 2025.

**H.450 (Starnes)**  
*Effective May 7, 2024*

**2024-217** **Trussville City** - Upon approval of a referendum, authorizes City of Trussville to levy and collect an additional 12.9 mills (for a total of 19.9 mills) ad valorem tax for public school purposes.

**H.387 (Garrett)**  
*Effective May 6, 2024*

**2024-220** **Colbert County, Muscle Shoals City, Sheffield City and Tuscumbia City** - Authorizes these boards of education to insure school buildings and property through the State Insurance Fund or use an insurance company approved by the board.

**H.353 (Underwood)**  
*Effective June 1, 2024*

LOCAL BILLS, contd.

**2024-301** **Franklin County [C/A]** - Provides a constitutional amendment that, if approved by voters, would vest certain 16th Section and indemnity school land in Fayette and Walker counties for the exclusive use of schools in the Franklin County school system. It will further provide for the distribution of any sale or lease proceeds and any interest generated to be paid to the Franklin County Board of Education.

**H.302 (Kiel)**  
*Effective May 9, 2024*

**2024-434** **Jacksonville City** - Stipulates that the Jacksonville City school board members shall serve extended terms until the day before the first Monday in October after the election to elect their successors. Elections for Places three, four and five shall coincide with Jacksonville City municipal elections and elections for Places one and two shall occur two years following the municipal elections.

**S.310 (Kelley)**  
*Effective June 1, 2024*

RESOLUTIONS

**Resolutions express the will of the legislature but do not have the effect of law. Either chamber can adopt a general resolution, but both chambers must adopt a joint resolution which are then forwarded to the governor for signature and assigned an act number by the secretary of state.**

**2024-12** **Joint Interim Study Commission on Responsible Technology Purchases** - Extends the Joint Interim Study Commission on Responsible Technology Purchases. This commission will investigate the short-term and long-term fiscal impacts of significant technology purchases, as well as propose ways to address any potential economic, privacy and environmental consequences of these purchases. The commission will consider the feasibility of creating a total cost of ownership matrix for large technology purchases by public K-12 schools, higher education institutions and state government agencies. This commission is required to report its findings and any proposed legislation to the Legislature by January 1, 2025.

**SJR 5 (Singleton)**

**2024-124** **Joint Interim Study Commission on State Employee and Education Employee Health Insurance** - Creates a study commission to review, analyze, and recommend any consolidation of the administrative functions and duties of the State Employees' Insurance Board (SEIB) and the Public Education Employees' Health Insurance Board (PEEHIP) with a report due to the legislature by Jan. 1, 2025.

**SJR 50 (Albritton)**

**2024-181** **Legislative Study on Modernizing K-12 Education School Funding** - Authorizes the legislature to conduct a study on modernizing the current K-12 school funding model into a student-based funding model, with a report due to the legislature by Feb. 1, 2025.

**HJR 215 (Garrett)**

**For a copy of any ENACTED bill or resolution, click on the highlighted act number in each listing or go to the Alabama Secretary of State's Office to [view legislative acts here](#).**

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**Bills NOT Passed this Legislative Session**

AASB tracks approximately 200 education-related bills each session, including resolutions and local legislation. While not every bill is mentioned in the *Advocate for Schools* newsletter, our governmental relations team keeps a close watch on all legislation identified as having an impact on K-12 education.

The following is a list of education-related legislation that **did not pass** during the 2024 Regular Session.

Click on any highlighted bill number to view that piece of legislation

**GENERAL BILLS, *not passed***

- **Alabama Career RoadMap Act** - ([S.176 Chesteen](#)) - would add a new high school graduation requirement that all students complete both a ten-hour workforce exploration module and a postsecondary opportunity course developed by the Alabama Community College System (ACCS).
- **Education Employee Worker's Compensation** - ([S.278 Givhan](#)) - would create a new worker's compensation benefits program for full-time education employees who are injured on the job, with a fund and administrative board for on-the-job-injury claims. There was a corresponding \$14.9 million line item in the FY25 ETF budget; however, it was reallocated to the SDE.
- **Paid Parental Leave** - ([S.305 Figures](#)) - would create an 8-week paid parental leave program for female education employees. The estimated cost of 6 weeks paid leave would cost the state around \$28 million.
- **Regulation of Vaping Products** - ([H.65 Drummond](#)) - would change regulations on electronic nicotine delivery systems ("vapes") and establish penalties for violation of those regulations, including sale to minors. It would require the SBOE to adopt a model policy with specific consequences for students who violate those policies.
- **"Don't Say Gay"** - ([H.130 Butler](#)) - would expand the state's existing law prohibiting any classroom discussion or instruction of sexual orientation or gender identity from grades K-5 to grades K-8 and would have prevented K-12 employees from displaying a flag or other insignia relating to sexual orientation or gender identity.
- **Three-Cueing Literacy Instruction** - ([H.173 Hulsey](#)) - would prohibit the use of the three-cueing teaching model that teaches students to read based on visual cues. This teaching model is not aligned with the science of reading requirements in the Alabama Literacy Act. The SBOE approved [new Administrative Code rule changes](#) prohibiting this model in May 2024.
- **Sex Education Curriculum** - ([H.195 DuBose](#)) - would prohibit any form of sex education curriculum in K-12 public schools that is not solely abstinence-based.
- **Outdoor Sales Tax Holiday** - ([H.257 Lovvorn](#)) - would create a new sales tax holiday for certain outdoor items. This bill was linked to H.258.
- **SSUT Increase** - ([H.258 England](#)) - would increase the state online simplified sellers use tax (SSUT) by 1.3% with 20% of that increase going to local boards of education.
- **CTE for Homeschoolers** - ([H.278 DuBose](#)) - would allow homeschoolers to enroll in a public school career technical education (CTE) program as a nontraditional student and would have enabled schools to receive average daily membership (ADM) for these students.
- **Campus Chaplains** - ([H.316 Gidley/S.294 Smitherman](#)) - would allow local boards of education to employ volunteer chaplains that may provide services to teachers, upon the teacher's request.
- **Cell Phone Use Policy** - ([H.364 Hulsey](#)) - would require local boards to have a cell phone and internet use policy that prohibits student use of cell phones during the school day. The [SBOE resolution on cell phone use policy passed February 2024](#).
- **Public Libraries and K-12 Public Schools Anti-Obscenity Laws** - ([H.385 Mooney](#)) - would expand state obscenity law to include public schools and public libraries as places where the presence of "material harmful to minor" could be prosecuted as a public nuisance and would remove criminal immunity from employees of those entities.

**ADVOCATE FOR SCHOOLS NEWSLETTER**

During legislative sessions, AASB's Governmental Relations team provides members with our Advocate for Schools newsletter which includes a weekly update on education issues, legislation and policy. You can find copies of this session's newsletters as well as archived issues from previous sessions by [CLICKING HERE](#).

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