



Aug. 9, 2024



Third-Grade Retention Numbers Drop Following Summer Reading Camps

The number of third graders retained due to reading scores below benchmark dropped from 4,808 this spring to 1,832. This marks the first year the third-grade retention provision of the Alabama Literacy Act has taken effect. Of the 4,808 third graders who tested “not sufficient” on the 2023-2024 Alabama Comprehensive Assessment Program (ACAP) reading subtest, more than 3,000 took the same reading subtest again over the summer, with 1,337 eligible for promotion to fourth grade. After this summer’s reading camps, 93.5% of Alabama's third graders now are sufficient in reading, while 6.5% of students remain below grade level and will be retained.

Another 500 third graders are eligible for promotion to fourth grade through good cause exemptions outlined in the law. Special education students with an individualized education plan (IEP) or 504 as well as some English language learners represent the majority of these exemptions.

In the State Board of Education (SBOE) work session Thursday, State Superintendent of Education Eric Mackey noted more students in lower elementary grades are being retained for not reading sufficiently, which demonstrates the Alabama Literacy Act is helping identify students requiring additional reading supports and interventions at a younger age.

Among other SBOE meeting action and discussion items:

- Alabama Administrative Code Rule changes
- Legislative updates
- State Intervention in Bessemer City Schools Update

- State Intervention Update on Sumter County Schools
- Modernizing the School Funding Formula

[Read Full Story](#)



Board Secretaries Currently Handling All Event Registrations

AASB's transition to a new and improved membership database and event registration system is in underway.

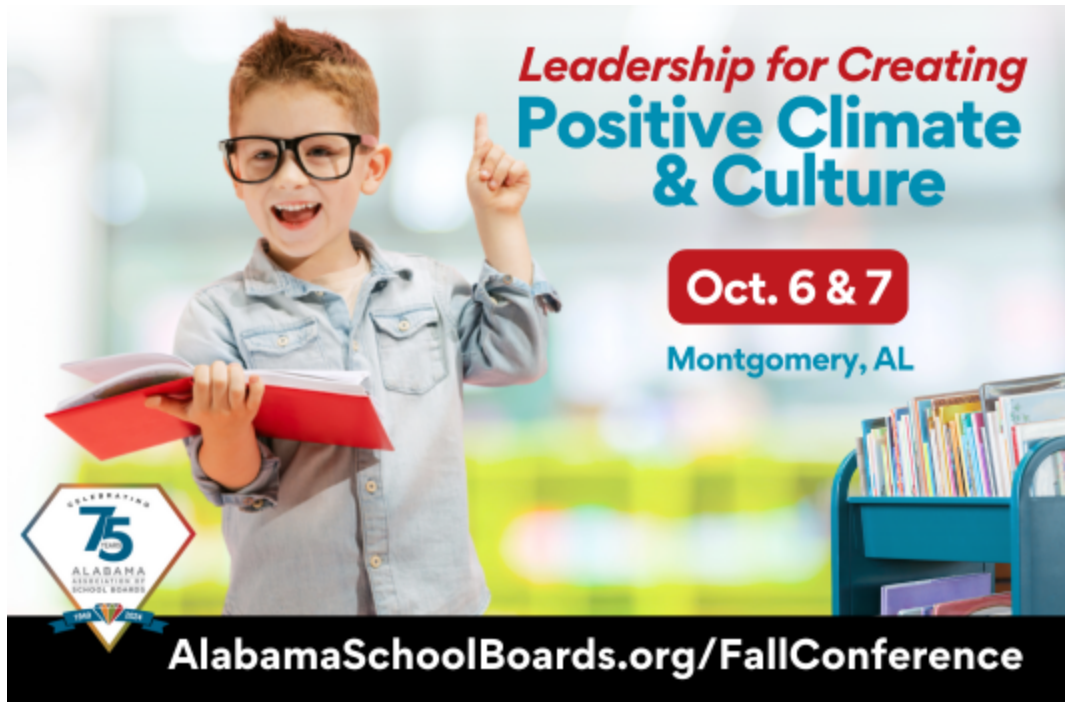
During this transition, all event registrations and profile updates are being handled by board secretaries. You also may contact AASB for assistance with any event registration.

Stay tuned in the coming weeks for your official invite and login instructions for board members, superintendents and other AASB members.

QUESTIONS?

Contact AASB Membership Coordinator **Joy Brownell** at jbrownell@AlabamaSchoolBoards.org or 800-562-0601

Building Better Schools Starts Here: AASB Fall Conference



Fall Conference: Leadership for Positive Climate & Culture

The climate and culture of a school plays a pivotal role in student achievement. A healthy school climate and culture creates the necessary conditions for effective teaching and learning to occur.

AASB's Fall Academy Core Conference, Leadership for Creating Positive Climate and Culture, slated for **Oct. 6 & 7** at the Renaissance Montgomery Hotel & Spa, will feature expert speakers who will share strategies for developing high-quality learning environments that foster educational excellence. Attendees will earn up to six training hours for this core course in AASB's School Board Member Academy.

General session topics and speakers include:

- **Kristi Krings** of **Rachel's Challenge**: "Kindness Culture"
- **David Arencibia**, Educator, Author and Leadership Coach: "Building an Elite Culture - Creating Success with High Standards and a Positive Environment"
- **Volunteer for Youth Justice**: "Youth Court - An Innovative Approach to School Discipline Practices"

Several information-packed breakout sessions also will be offered. These sessions will rotate, providing attendees an opportunity to choose two breakouts.

Post Conference Session: Accountability Data Boot Camp for School Board Members

Extend your learning further and unlock the power of educational data in the Fall Post-Conference workshop, "Accountability Data Boot Camp for School Board Members." ALSDE Accountability Coordinator **Dr. Marcus Vandiver** will guide attendees through understanding and navigating State Report Cards and key student achievement data on the ALSDE's website. School Board members will gain the skills to access, interpret, and compare key achievement metrics to enhance informed decision making in their school systems. Earn two hours in the School Board Member Academy.

CONTACT BOARD SECRETARY OR AASB TO REGISTER

Reserve Your Spot for Fall District Meetings



The world of artificial intelligence (AI) is here. Are you ready to dive in?

This year's AASB Fall District Meetings will help break down the technical jargon and provide school board members with an essential introduction to AI, its current and future implications for education and key considerations for policy-making.

Registration cost is \$39 which includes dinner. All meeting times are 6 to 8:30 p.m. (dinner buffet service begins at 5:45 p.m.), and attendees will earn 1.5 hours in the School Board Member Academy.

KUDOS: Boards that have earned the 2023-2024 Team Training Achievement Award will be recognized during the District Meetings. This 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.

District Meeting Dates & Locations

DISTRICT 1: Tuesday, Sept. 17 | Saraland Early Education Center (Saraland)

DISTRICT 2: Tuesday, Aug. 27 | Wallace Community College, Hank Sanders Technology Center Conference Room (Selma)

DISTRICT 3: Thursday, Sept. 19 | Hoppergrass Restaurant (Ozark)

DISTRICT 4: Thursday Aug. 29 | AASB Office (Montgomery)

DISTRICT 5: Tuesday, Sept. 3 | Thompson High School (Alabaster)

DISTRICT 6: Monday, Aug. 19 | Classic on Noble (Anniston)

DISTRICT 7: Thursday, Aug. 22 | Hotel Capstone (Tuscaloosa)

DISTRICT 8: Thursday, Sept. 5 | The Magnolia Room (Decatur)

DISTRICT 9: Thursday, Sept. 12 | Rocket City Tavern (Huntsville)

CONTACT BOARD SECRETARY OR AASB TO REGISTER

Poverty Coaching Certification for School System Staff



AASB is excited to host nationally known poverty expert Donna Beegle for two intensive training programs at our office in Montgomery **Sept. 24 - 27**. These one-of-a-kind training experiences are designed to help community and thought leaders as well as public-school advocates rethink their approaches to improving outcomes for those in poverty.

Open to All School System Staff!

Alabama's schools are on the front lines against poverty, with nearly one quarter of the state's children living in poverty. Beegle's Immersion & Coaching Institutes will prepare your school system staff to serve as on-site poverty experts, providing leadership to break barriers and develop system-wide approaches to help students and families move out and stay out of poverty.

Who Should Attend?

- Administrators
- Guidance counselors
- CNP staff
- Federal programs staff
- Board members
- Any school employee with an interest in meeting the needs of students in poverty.

Poverty Immersion Institute | Sept. 24 & 25 | AASB Office

Hands on two-day poverty institute for educators, health, justice, social service professionals, and community members who want to better understand poverty and to gain tools for making a difference. **\$125 | 6 School Board Academy training hours**

Poverty Coaching Institute* | Sept. 26 & 27 | AASB Office

Train school system staff to become certified poverty coaches, conducting workshops for breaking poverty barriers and improving communication and relationships. Poverty coaches also are trained to conduct Poverty Competency Assessments and assist their schools in developing and implementing customized action plans with measurable results. **\$225 | Training hours will not be awarded for this session.**

****NOTE: Completion of Poverty Immersion Institute is required to attend Poverty Coaching Institute.***

CONTACT BOARD SECRETARY OR AASB TO REGISTER

Nominate Outstanding Leaders: AASB All-State and A-Team Advocacy Awards Open



Nominations Deadline Extended for All-State School Board Award

AASB is seeking nominations for its 2024 All-State School Board Member Award, and with the **deadline now extended to Sept. 6**, you still have time to shine the spotlight on an outstanding board member!

The All-State Award is the highest honor AASB bestows, honoring up to five past or present Alabama school board members who have exhibited exemplary boardmanship.

School board presidents and superintendents already have received [eligibility and selection guidelines](#).

REMEMBER: endorsement by a majority vote of the nominee's local school board is required, so act now!

[View Nomination Form](#)



Advocacy Superstars Wanted

Nominations are open for AASB's A-Team Advocacy Award, a recognition program launched last year to celebrate extraordinary advocacy efforts of school board members.

You may self-nominate or nominate a peer who has been influential in influencing policy and building relationships with elected officials. **The deadline to submit nominations is Sept. 30.**

For details, [contact AASB Governmental Relations Coordinator Tracey Meyer via email](#) or at 334-277-9700.

- View award criteria [HERE](#)
- Read about last year's A-Team Award recipients [HERE](#).

[View Nomination Form](#)



View Upcoming AASB Events & Plan Your Training Year

AASB's diverse lineup of 2024-2025 learning opportunities is designed to help support your school board teams in governance and leadership.

From district meetings to timely webinars to information-packed workshops and conferences, you'll find a wealth of training events to help build your knowledge and sharpen your boardmanship skills.

[View Training & Events Calendar](#)



AASB's 75th Anniversary Student Art Contest Opens Monday, Aug. 12

The Alabama Association of School Boards is excited to announce the opening of our 75th Anniversary Student Art Contest Monday, August 12.

We invite students from across Alabama to showcase their artistic talents while celebrating 75 years of AASB's educational leadership in our state. This contest, sponsored by [Fairbanks, LLC](#), provides an opportunity for young artists to explore the impact of school boards and educational leadership through visual art. More than \$3,000 in prizes are up for grabs!

Theme: "Diamond Legacy: 75 Years of Illuminating Leadership in Education"

Contest opens: Monday, Aug. 12, 2024

Contest closes: Friday, Oct. 18, 2024

Eligibility: Open to all K-12 students in Alabama public schools. Winners will be selected in two categories: Grades K-5 and Grades 6-12.

Artwork should reflect the theme and may include various mediums such as painting, drawing, digital art, or mixed media.

Full contest details, submission guidelines, and prizes will be emailed to school systems and available on our website starting August 12.



Whole Board Training: Exciting Promotions for Early Birds!

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, 2024.

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.

[Request Your Training Now](#)



You're Invited: COSSBA National Events

The Consortium of State School Boards Associations (COSSBA) events are open to all AASB members. Up to three training hours may be earned by attending COSSBA's annual conference. Be sure to save the date and/or register for these upcoming national events:

REGISTER

[Federal Advocacy Conference](#)

Sept. 8-10, 2024 | Washington, D.C.

SAVE THE DATE

[2025 National Conference](#)

March 21-23, 2025 | Atlanta, GA



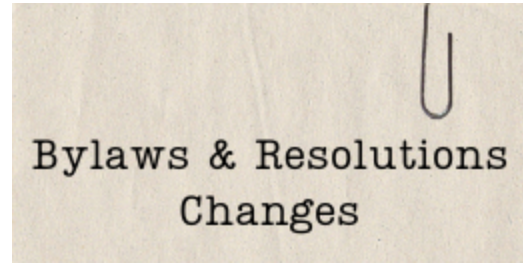
President-Elect, District Director Nominations Due Sept. 1

Self-nominations are being accepted for AASB president-elect for 2025. Both the president and president-elect serve a one-year term. AASB bylaws call for president-elect candidates to have served on AASB's Board of Directors; however, such service need not be consecutive to the individual's candidacy for or term of elective office. Nomination forms must be postmarked or received by **Sept. 1**.

AASB also is holding director elections for Districts 1, 3, 5, 7 and 9.

Nominations must be made in writing and postmarked or received by **Sept. 1**. District directors serve two-year terms and can serve two, complete terms.

[Learn more.](#)



Submit Proposed Bylaws & Resolutions by Sept. 1

School board members are asked to submit proposed resolutions or changes to AASB bylaws by Sept. 1.

Proposals, which must be submitted in writing, will be considered by AASB's Delegate Assembly during the association's annual convention in December. Visit our website to review current **Bylaws & Resolutions**.

Send submissions via:

EMAIL: twright@AlabamaSchoolBoards.org

MAIL:
P.O. Box 4980
Montgomery, AL 36103-4980



Convention Clinic Proposals Due Sept. 9

Do you have a governance best practice or innovative program you'd like to share with peers? [Submit a proposal to present a breakout clinic session](#) during AASB's Annual Convention at the Renaissance Montgomery Hotel Dec. 5-7.

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 **Friday, Sept. 9**.



Student Entertainment Applications Due Sept. 9

Showcase your school system's talented students by [submitting a student entertainment application](#) for AASB's Annual Convention at the Renaissance Montgomery Hotel Dec. 5-7. We're accepting submissions from vocal, instrumental, performing arts and JROTC groups!

Selected finalists will be featured in a social media contest this fall, giving schools and communities a chance to vote for their favorite group. One group also will be selected by AASB. The deadline to apply is **Friday, Sept. 9**.

BOARD MEMBER *Spotlight*

Meet Trent Kennedy
Walker County Board of Education

Q: What's one piece of advice you would share with an incoming board member?

A: — “ —
Be patient as you strive to make a better tomorrow for your students and staff. Have a servant's heart and always try to be present in the lives of your students and staff. Be their biggest supporter!

” —



 ALABAMA ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL BOARDS

Board Member Spotlight: Trent Kennedy

Trent Kennedy balances his role as a Walker County school board member making key, big-picture decisions with his career as a CT technologist, where he uses technology to help doctors diagnose patients through x-ray images. A keen eye for detail serves him well in both roles. Since joining the board in 2018, Trent has been dedicated to ensuring students of Walker County have all the tools needed to succeed in school and in life.

[Read More](#)



Buckle Up for a Trip Down Memory Lane with AASB!

The 2024-25 school year is here, and we're feeling nostalgic! Join us for a trip down memory lane as we relive our team's favorite back-to-school moments.

First stop: AASB Member Engagement Rep. **Suzanne Freeman's** fun-filled school bus rides!

[Head over to AASB's Facebook page](#) for more of Suzanne's memories and to see which AASB staff member we'll share next!



Just Ask Jayne

Prohibiting Guns on School Board Property

Dear Jayne:

A lot has changed with gun laws in our state over the last few years, but are we still allowed to prohibit guns on school board property?

[View Answer](#)



Call for Public Comments: 2024 Arts and Social Studies Courses of Study Drafts

The ALSDE is seeking public feedback on the following Course of Study Drafts:

- [Arts Education Draft](#)
- [Social Studies Draft](#)

The review is an opportunity to offer feedback related to each standard for each course. These drafts contain the proposed content for all grade k-12 arts education content and grades k-12 social studies content. Standards in these documents specify what students in Alabama should know and be able to do.

The public feedback period is **Aug. 2 - Sept. 3** via the following forms:

- [Arts Education Input](#)
- [Social Studies Input](#)

For additional information, visit the ALSDE's [public comment page](#).

Brewton City Schools
Superintendent **SEARCH**

Apply by
August 19

APPLY: <https://bit.ly/BrewtonSupt>

Brewton City Schools Superintendent Search

The Brewton City Board of Education is seeking a leader with a demonstrated ability to raise student achievement to serve as the school system's next superintendent. The deadline to apply for the position is Aug. 19. This search is being conducted by the Alabama Association of School Boards. [Learn more/apply.](#)

Other vacancies:

- [Morgan County Schools CSFO](#)



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Alabama Association of School Boards
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Montgomery, AL 36104
800-562-0601

