



FOR YOUR *information*

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

August 14, 2021



SBOE Adopts Resolution and Administrative Code Changes on CRT, 'Intellectual Freedom'

In a 7-2 vote, the State Board of Education passed a controversial resolution Thursday related to critical race theory (CRT), a college-level academic concept based on the premise that race isn't biological, but rather a social construct embedded in society within systems and institutions that play a role in racial inequality. CRT is not taught in any of Alabama's schools, nor is it included in the state social studies Course of Study standards.

The resolution “declaring the preservation of intellectual freedom and non-discrimination in Alabama’s public schools” prohibits teaching anything that would “indoctrinate students in social or political ideologies that promote one race or sex above another.”

The board also adopted changes to the Alabama Administrative Code rules allowing disciplinary action to be taken against teachers who violate the policy, which applies to instruction, Alabama Courses of Study standards, professional development and all other activities in the K-12 setting.

Some educators have said they fear the resolution could harm educational equity initiatives and stifle important classroom discussions about the nation's complex and difficult history regarding race.

(For more information, View [AASB's statement regarding the passage of the resolution and an informative one-pager](#) on what CRT is and isn't.)

In other board news, State Superintendent Dr. Eric

Mackey announced Roanoke City Schools Superintendent Chuck Marcum as the ALSDE's new chief of staff. Marcum will start Oct. 1.

The work session following the meeting included discussion about Career Technical Education, the current ALSDE operating budget and projected FY22 budget and more.

[Read Full Story](#)



Who Will Your Board Nominate for All-State School Board?

AASB is seeking nominations for its 2021 All-State School Board Member Award, the association's highest honor. Board presidents and superintendents have all received eligibility and selection guidelines for this prestigious recognition program celebrating exemplary boardmanship.

Nominations require a majority board vote, so don't let the **Sept. 10 deadline** sneak up on you!

[Learn More](#)



Fall Conference Registration Now Open!

Registration opened yesterday for AASB's Fall Academy Core Conference, *Leadership for Creating Positive Climate & Culture*. The conference will be held Sunday, Oct. 17 and Monday, Oct. 18 at the Renaissance Montgomery Hotel & Spa. Earn up to six training hours and hear from expert speakers who will share strategies for creating positive school climates and high-quality learning

environments that lead to educational excellence.

Stick around after Fall Conference for the Post-Conference Workshop: *Best Practices for Reducing Chronic Absenteeism*, Monday, Oct. 18 from noon to 2 p.m. Led by AASB consultant Dr. Camille Wright, this informative session will examine the causes and impact of student absenteeism, provide insight into approaches that have successfully increased attendance and highlight the board's role in addressing this vital issue. Registration required; Lunch is included.

[Register Now](#)



Register Now for Fall District Meetings

The U.S. Department of Education adopted new Title IX regulations last year that change how public schools handle sexual harassment complaints. Join us for AASB's Fall 2021 District Meetings, "*Title IX: The Road to Compliance*," to learn about the new rules, how these changes will impact your stakeholders and what's on the horizon under the new administration.

Registration cost is \$30, which includes dinner. Attendees will earn 1.5 hours. All District Meeting times are 6 to 8:30 p.m. View dates and locations below, and click to register for your district meeting:

- **D1** Thursday, Sept. 9 | Saraland Early Education Center, Saraland | [REGISTER](#)
- **D2** | Monday, Aug. 30 | Daniel Pratt Elementary, Prattville | [REGISTER](#)
- **D3** | Tuesday, Sept. 7 | Hoppergrass Restaurant, Ozark | [REGISTER](#)
- **D4** | Thursday, Sept. 16 | AASB Office, Montgomery | [REGISTER](#)
- **D5** | Tuesday, Aug. 31 | Hoover High School, Hoover | [REGISTER](#)
- **D6** | Tuesday, Sept. 21 | Classic on Noble, Anniston | [REGISTER](#)

D7 | Monday, Sept. 20 | Hotel Capstone, Tuscaloosa | [REGISTER](#)

• D8 | Tuesday, Sept. 14 | The Magnolia Room, Decatur | [REGISTER](#)

• D9 | Tuesday, Sept. 28 | Top O' The River, Guntersville | [REGISTER](#)



Board Member Spotlight: Travis Cummings

Travis Cummings has been a Madison City school board member since 2018. He is an active parent in the school system who wanted to give back by helping all students access outstanding educational opportunities.

Read this month's Board Member Spotlight to learn more about Travis and the soft spot he holds in his heart for all children, as well as how a technical course in high school changed the trajectory of his future.

[Read More](#)



New COVID-19 Resources

As Alabama's K-12 students head back to school for the 2021-2022 school year, AASB is providing school boards with a variety of information and resources to help keep students and staff safe amid rising cases of the COVID-19 Delta variant.

A MESSAGE FROM ALABAMA AAP

CHAPTER: In a [letter to school superintendents](#), the Alabama chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AL-AAP) outlined key recommendations for developing policies to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 in schools.

AL-AAP RESOURCES: The following resources from the AL-AAP are available to assist schools in navigating mask exemptions and other policy decisions related to COVID-19:

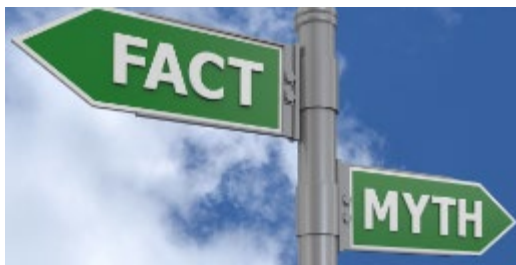
- [Guidance on mask exemptions](#) in children and adolescents

- COVID-19 [exposure guidelines](#)
- [Clinical Decision Tree](#) for mask exemption requests
- Masks - [sample letter for children with sensory communication issues](#)
- [Sample letter requesting 504](#) for students with special needs where no masks required

WEBINAR: AASB held an informative webinar, *Keeping Schools Safe Amid the Delta Variant*, with Birmingham-area physician Dr. Celeste Reese-Willis Friday, August 6. [A recording of the webinar](#) is available on AASB's YouTube Channel.

[Visit AASB M.A.S.K. Up Page](#)

Upcoming Webinars



Mythbusters: The Science About Kids and Masks

WHEN: Thursday, Aug. 19 | Noon-1 p.m.

COST: Free

With so much misinformation circulating, separating fact from myth about masks and other COVID-19 issues can be a challenge for parents and schools alike.

Join us Thursday, Aug. 19 for a free webinar, *MythBusters: The Science About Kids and Masks*, featuring Dr. David Kimberlin, Sergio Stagno Endowed Chair in Pediatric Infectious Diseases at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. Kimberlin will explain key facts and science critical for school leaders to know as students head back to school.



Strategic Planning Done Right

WHEN: Thursday, Sept. 2 | Noon-1 p.m.

COST: \$55 individual; \$210 group

All boards need a current, forward-thinking strategic plan to guide their actions and the actions of the staff to achieve measurable, sustainable results for students.

Join us Thursday, Sept. 2 for AASB's next webinar, *Strategic Planning Done Right*, led by AASB's consultant Dr. Frank Costanzo. Earn 1 hour and hear more on the role of the board in the planning process, from determining expectations to holding the system accountable for reaching strategic goals.

Register Now

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Meet Alabama's New Teacher of the Year!

Congrats to Auburn City Schools teacher, Kimberly Johnson, Alabama's 2021-2022 Teacher of the Year. Johnson, an English/language arts teacher at Auburn Junior High School (Auburn City Schools), was announced as the winner during a reception held Wednesday, August 11.



AASB is a proud, longtime sponsor of the annual Alabama Teacher of the Year program. Read more about Johnson, the Alabama Teacher of the Year Alternate Alli Cahill Phelps (Homewood City Schools) and the other 14 outstanding district finalists [in his WSFA article](#).

Don't Miss Chance to Save on Whole Board Training

It pays to plan ahead. Schedule and complete your AASB-led whole board training **by Sept. 30 and save 10%** off the regular fee.



AASB's exemplary training team team is prepared to help you improve your skills via [46 interactive courses](#) created to meet your boards' needs and fulfill the state-mandated, two-hour whole board training requirement.

For more information, contact AASB Executive Assistant for Leadership Development, Stephanie Bell, at sbell@alabamaschoolboards.org or call 800-562-0601.

Request Workshop Now

AASB Deadlines & Reminders



Delegates/Alternates Submissions Due Nov. 1

Watch your inbox in the coming weeks for information about selecting delegates and alternates for AASB's annual Delegate Assembly, which will be held during the annual AASB Convention at the Hyatt Regency Birmingham -- The Wynfrey Hotel **Dec. 2-4, 2021**. At Delegate Assembly, AASB conducts association business, makes adjustments to its bylaws and votes on resolutions that guide the association's legislative agenda.

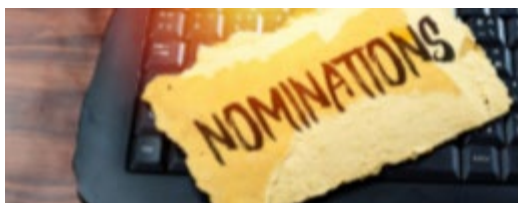
School boards must provide AASB with their delegate and alternate selections by **Monday, Nov. 1**. Names may be mailed or submitted online.



Student Entertainment Applications Due by August 27

Showcase your school system's talented students by [submitting a student entertainment application](#) for AASB's Annual Convention at the Hyatt Regency Birmingham - The Wynfrey Hotel **Dec. 2-4, 2021**. We're accepting submissions from vocal, instrumental, performing arts, and JROTC groups!

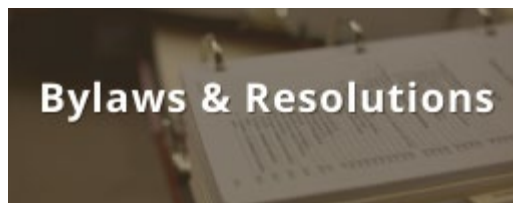
Finalists selected from the pool of submitted applications will be featured in a social media contest this fall, and your schools and communities will be able to vote for their favorite group via AASB's Facebook page. The deadline for student entertainment applications is **Friday, Aug. 27**.



President-Elect and District Director Nominations

Self-nominations are being accepted for AASB president-elect for 2022. 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. Nominations must be postmarked or received by **Sept. 1**.

AASB also is holding director elections for Districts 2, 4, 6 and 8. Nominations must be made in writing and postmarked or received by Sept. 1. District directors serve two-year terms and can serve two,



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](#) and [Resolutions](#).

Send submissions via:

EMAIL: twright@AlabamaSchoolBoards.org

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

complete terms. [Learn more.](#)



NSBA Magna Award Nominations Open August 16

Nominations for the National School Board Association's 2022 Magna Awards open **Monday, Aug. 16**. The annual awards program recognizes school systems for innovation and creativity in increasing student achievement.

This year's awards will focus on equity in education. If your school system has a unique program that aims to remove achievement barriers for vulnerable or underserved children, you could be a 2022 award winner; but, you won't know unless you enter!

[Learn More](#)



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