



**Dec. 13, 2024**



## **New Social Studies Course of Study Approved**

The State Board of Education in Thursday's work session unanimously approved adoption of the new arts education and social studies courses of study, marking a significant step for the latter subject area which has not been revised since 2010. Five speakers spoke in support of the social studies course of study committee's work and the newly revised standards, commending efforts to engage and solicit feedback from multiple stakeholders.

The board also voted to adopt an amended Alabama Administrative Code rule change for the new workforce diploma pathway created through the [Alabama Workforce Pathways Act of 2024](#), with Stephanie Bell (District 3) abstaining. The new diploma pathway reduces math and science credit requirements from four each to two each for students who intend to enter the workforce immediately after high school.

Other board discussion included updates on teacher shortages, educator preparation programs

[Read Full Story](#)

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## Important Webinar: School Funding Formula Models

Could Alabama's school funding formula be on the brink of its biggest transformation in decades?

Join AASB Executive Director **Sally Smith**, Director of Governmental Relations **Ada Katherine van Wyhe** and Alabama Association of School Business Officials (AASBO) Executive Director **Andy Craig** for a timely discussion of three groundbreaking student-weighted funding models that could reshape education funding in our state.

During this free hour-long session Wednesday, Dec. 18 (noon-1 p.m.), you'll:

- Get an insider's look at the proposed funding models
- Understand how these changes could impact your school system
- Learn key questions to ask your legislators
- Gain insights to effectively advocate for your schools

Your voice as a school board member will be crucial in shaping these potential changes should the Legislative Study Commission on Modernizing K-12 School Funding decide to proceed at its next meeting in January 2025.

Don't miss this opportunity to stay ahead of this significant policy shift and ensure your system's interests are represented in these important discussions.

**MEMBERS:** Contact [Joy Brownell](#) at AASB or your board secretary to register

**AASBO:** Register on the [online webinar platform](#)



## You're on the School Board: Now What?

Ready to find your path through the complex new world of school board service? AASB's New Board Member Orientation is your map to success, with two essential routes to explore:

### Checkpoint #1: Roles & Responsibilities

**Friday, Jan. 10 | 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. | Embassy Suites Montgomery**

Navigate your way through the twists and turns of education law, school finance, ethics and effective board meetings. School Board Members

**COST:** \$140, Superintendents \$115 (*8 training hours*)

### Checkpoint #2: Relationships & Effectiveness

**Saturday, Jan. 11 | 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. | Embassy Suites Montgomery**

Master the intricate pathways of board relationships, community connections and productive partnerships with stakeholders and policymakers. School Board Members

**COST:** \$120, Superintendents \$95 (*6 training hours*)

**NOTE:** The state of Alabama requires all local school board members to complete orientation. By taking both parts of AASB's orientation, members not only meet the orientation requirement, but also the state ethics training requirement.

Contact [Joy Brownell](#) at AASB or your board secretary to register.



## Celebrating Alabama's School Board Members

In preparation for Alabama's annual observance of School Board Member Recognition Month in January, AASB is providing a toolkit with promotional materials for superintendents, school principals, chambers of commerce and other education supporters to use, complete with downloadable and customizable templates.

The 2025 theme is "Building Tomorrow's Future." A link to the online toolkit will be sent via email to all superintendents and board secretaries next week. Also, be sure to follow AASB on Facebook and X for posts and graphics you can share!

For more information, [email AASB's PR Department](#).



## Mark Your Calendar: Leadership for Financial Accountability Conference Opens Jan. 7

***NEW LOCATION FOR SPRING CONFERENCE! Florence, Ala.***

**Registration opens Tuesday, Jan. 7, 2025**, for AASB's Spring Academy Core Conference, Leadership for Financial Accountability, which will be held Friday, Feb. 28 and Saturday, March 1 at the Marriott Shoals Hotel & Spa in Florence, Ala.

Earn up to 6 training hours while going beyond the basics to better understand school accounting and how to align the school system's finances with its mission in ways that help raise student achievement. You'll hear from expert speakers with deep knowledge and real-world experience in school finance. **COST: \$209**

You'll also have an opportunity to extend your learning and earn additional hours with these excellent pre-conference sessions:

- **Pre-Conference Leading for Educational Equity Workshop\***  
**Thursday, Feb. 27, 3 to 6:15 p.m. & Friday, Feb. 28, 8 to 11:15 a.m.**  
Build a stronger foundation for student success through AASB's Leading for Educational Equity workshop. This engaging session helps board-superintendent teams assess current efforts and develop action plans for meaningful change. (Earn 6 training hours;
- **NOTE: Full board-superintendent teams who attend the Leading for Educational Equity Workshop can fulfill the 2024-2025 whole board training requirement.**
- **Poverty Simulation: Friday, Feb. 28 | 9 to 11:30 a.m.**  
Get a sobering glimpse into the day-to-day realities of students and families living in poverty by participating in this interactive simulation. (Earn 2.5 training hours) **COST: \$59**
- **Early Bird Workshop: Digital & Physical Threats to Schools**  
**Friday, Feb. 28 | 1 to 3 p.m.**  
This workshop will examine emerging security challenges facing schools, including technology-enabled threats and coordinated disruption attempts. Board



members will gain insights into threat assessment, response protocols, and communication strategies to strengthen district-wide security during critical incidents. (Earn 2 hours) COST: \$79

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## AASB Honors All-State, A-Team Winners



AASB recognized recipients of its highest honor, the All-State School Board Member Award, during a luncheon Dec. 6 at the association's annual convention.

Honorees included **Kevin Corcoran** of the Gulf Shores school board, **Gwen Harris-Brooks** of the Lanett school board, **Ronnie Owens** of the Lauderdale County school board, **Dr. Greg Price** of the Pike County school board and **Dr. Celia Rudolph**, formerly of the Muscle Shoals school board.

The award recognizes up to five of Alabama's most outstanding past or present school board members.

[Learn More](#)



AASB celebrated recipients of its A-Team Advocacy Award during a special recognition luncheon Dec. 6 as part of the annual AASB convention.

Honorees included **Travis Cummings** of the Madison school board, **Donna Jones** of the Haleyville school board, **Pam Price**, formerly of the Chilton County school board, and **Don Presley** of the Tuscaloosa County school board.

Launched in 2023, the A-Team award honors local school board members who demonstrate outstanding leadership in legislative and policy advocacy throughout their school board service.

[Learn More](#)

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## AASB Officers, New and Returning Directors Installed



Geneva City school board member **Russell Clausell** was installed as the association's new president during the closing session of the 2024 AASB Annual Convention in Montgomery, Dec. 7.

St. Clair County school board member **Scott Suttle** was installed as the association's new president-elect. Additionally, several new and returning directors were sworn in to begin two-year terms on AASB's 14-member Board of Directors.

[Learn More](#)



## DELEGATE ASSEMBLY REPORT

AASB's 2024 Delegate Assembly was held on Thursday, December 5 at the Renaissance Hotel in Montgomery. After President Brad Ingle delivered the President's Report, the Assembly took the following actions:

- Approved the 2023 Delegate Assembly Minutes;
- Adopted the Nominating Committee Report naming Scott Suttle (St. Clair County) as President-Elect;
- Received the Bylaws Committee Report which regulates governance of the Association; and
- Adopted the Resolutions Committee Report which governs the advocacy positions of the Association.

Delegate Assembly is AASB's annual business meeting.



**COSSBA 2025**  
NATIONAL CONFERENCE  
*Education for All*  
Bridging Gaps, Breaking Barriers  
March 21-23, 2025  
Atlanta, Georgia

## Network with School Board Peers from Across the Nation

Registration is open now for the Consortium of State School Boards Associations (COSSBA) National Conference, which will be held March 21-23, 2025 in Atlanta. Attendees will have the opportunity to explore the latest trends and best practices in conference tracks on topics such as finance, governance, school safety, mental health, stakeholder engagement, student achievement, and artificial intelligence's transformative potential.

[Register Now](#)

**BOARD MEMBER** *Spotlight*

**Meet Matt Dial**  
Satsuma City Board of Education

Q: What excites you the most about being a school board member?  
A: — “  
...just seeing our students and staff excel and become excited about an achievement is something that keeps my fire burning to keep working on their behalf. Winning is just as contagious as losing.  
” —

ALABAMA ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL BOARDS

## Board Member Spotlight: Matt Dial

For Matt Dial, school board leadership is where passion meets purpose. As vice president of the Satsuma school board and a veteran of the finance industry, Matt brings a unique perspective to education governance. From chasing volleyball dreams with his ninth-grader to chasing excellence in the boardroom, discover how this self-proclaimed competitor is helping shape the future of Satsuma schools.

[Read More](#)



**Just Ask Jayne**

**Buying Home Outside District: Can I Finish My Term?**

Dear Jayne:

I'm a board member and considering buying a home but I'm not sure what happens if I move out of my district. Would I be able to finish my term or would I lose my seat immediately?

[View Answer](#)



## Vacancy: Superintendent of Selma City Schools

The Selma City Board of Education is seeking a leader with a demonstrated ability to raise achievement scores, connect with the community, and serve as the board's next superintendent.

Base salary starts at \$145,000 and will be negotiable based on experience and a proven track record.

This search is being conducted by the Alabama Association of School Boards.

**Application deadline:** Dec. 17, 2024.

[Learn More](#)



## Deadline Jan. 13 to Enter Governor's App Challenge

Student entry forms are due Jan. 13, 2025, for the Alabama Governor's App Challenge. The statewide computer programming competition is open to students in grades K-12. Cash prizes will be awarded to the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners in each grade band (Elementary: K-5; Middle School: 6-8; High School: 9-12).

[Learn More](#)





## Nominate an Outstanding Student by Jan. 31

Do you know a student in grades 9-12 who has excelled in academics, given of themselves through public service, overcome adversity, or inspired others through deeds and strength of character? Nominate a student you think should be recognized for these accomplishments before the January 31, 2025, deadline. Prizes include a laptop and a \$10,000 scholarship.

[Learn More](#)

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## Add AASB Swag to Your Holiday Shopping List



[Shop the AASB Store](#)



Alabama Association of School Boards

43 South Jackson Street  
Montgomery, AL 36104  
800-562-0601

