



July 12, 2024



## Student Test Scores, Teachers' Bill of Rights Model Policy Reviewed at SBOE Work Session

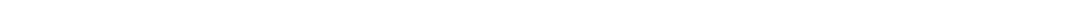
The Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE) presented the 2023-2024 statewide Alabama Comprehensive Assessment Program (ACAP) results for K-12 public school students during Thursday's State Board of Education (SBOE) Work Session, revealing improvements in reading proficiency across all grades but widening declines in math proficiency at all grade levels.

Among other SBOE Meeting discussion and action:

**Teachers' Bill of Rights** - As required by the recently enacted Teachers' Bill of Rights (Act 2024-409), the SBOE announced its intent to adopt a model policy that local boards of education may adopt for the upcoming 2024-2025 school year. The law became effective June 1, 2024. Each local school board must adopt a policy addressing the minimum requirements of the Teachers' Bill of Rights and may choose to adopt the SBOE Model Policy as is, amend it, or create their own.

**New SBOE Leadership** - With Governor Kay Ivey in attendance, the SBOE elected Tonya Chestnut (District 5) as Vice President and Marie Manning (District 6) President Pro Tem for 2024-2025.

[Read Full Story](#)



## Registration Opens Tuesday, July 16 for Poverty Immersion and Coaching Institutes



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.

#### **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.***

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## New AASB Membership Database

AASB's transition to a new and improved membership database and event registration system is in full swing! Currently, all board secretaries have access to the new system to add new members, update member records, register members for training events and more.

### COMING SOON:

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](mailto:jbrownell@AlabamaSchoolBoards.org) or 800-562-0601

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## Welcome the Newest Members #TeamAASB



**Janice Stockman, Ed.S.**

Janice Stockman joined the AASB staff this month as Director of Leadership Development.



**Candi Longnecker**

Candi Longnecker joined the AASB staff this month as Leadership Development Coordinator.

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# 2024-25 Training Year Underway: Plan Your Calendar!

**CALENDAR AT-A-GLANCE** 2024

**JULY**  
 July 12: Roles & Responsibilities Orientation (Montgomery)  
 July 13: Effective Boards & Relationships Orientation (Montgomery)  
 July 18: Webinar - Listening to Your Students

**AUGUST**  
 Aug. 15: All-State School Board Award Nominations Due  
 Aug. 19: District 6 Meeting (Anniston)  
 Aug. 22: District 7 Meeting (Tuscaloosa)  
 Aug. 27: District 2 Meeting (Selma)  
 Aug. 29: District 4 Meeting (Montgomery)

**SEPTEMBER**  
 Sept. 3: District 5 Meeting (Alabaster)  
 Sept. 5: AASB Webinar - Topic TBA  
 Sept. 5: District 8 Meeting (Decatur)  
 Sept. 8 - 10: COSSBA Federal Advocacy Institute (Washington, D.C.)  
 Sept. 12: District 9 Meeting (Huntsville)  
 Sept. 17: District 1 Meeting (Saraland)  
 Sept. 19: District 3 Meeting (Ozark)  
 Sept. 24 & 25: Poverty Immersion Institute (Montgomery)  
 Sept. 26 & 27: Poverty Coaching Institute (Montgomery)

**OCTOBER**  
 Oct. 6 & 7: Fall Academy Core Conference, Leadership for Positive Climate & Culture (Montgomery)  
 Oct. 7: Fall Post-Conference Workshop - Hands-on Data Websites (Montgomery)

**NOVEMBER**  
 Nov. 7: AASB Webinar - Topic TBA

**DECEMBER**  
 Dec. 5: Pre-Convention Workshop - Student Discipline (Montgomery)  
 Dec. 5 - 7: AASB Winter Convention & Delegate Assembly (Montgomery)

**WHAT THE LAW REQUIRES**  
 State law requires annually 6 hours of total training (includes 2 whole board training hours for all board members). The law also requires orientation courses for new school board members. AASB's two-part orientation fulfills the state's orientation requirement as well as the state ethics course requirement for public officials. Orientation hours count toward fulfilling 4 hours of the state's 6-hour annual training requirement.

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](#)

**Whole Board TRAINING** 2024-2025

3 WAYS Upgrade Your Whole Board M.E.S.

## Whole Board Training: It Pays Big to Book Early!

Let AASB's expert team help you improve your skills through interactive courses that meet your board's needs and fulfill the state-mandated two-hour whole board training requirement. [View Courses.](#)

Also, it pays to book early! Boards that schedule and complete their Whole Board Training in July, August or September receive:

- **10% discount** on Whole Board Training fee
- Chance for Board Secretary to win **one of three \$50 gift cards** in special drawing

Contact Leadership Development Coordinator **Candi Longnecker** at [clongnecker@AlabamaSchoolboards.org](mailto:clongnecker@AlabamaSchoolboards.org) or 800-562-0601.

[Request Your Training Now](#)



## COSSBA National Events

AASB's national organization, the Consortium of State School Boards Associations (COSSBA), is a non-partisan, national alliance dedicated to sharing resources and information to support, promote and strengthen state school boards associations serving local school systems and board members.

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:

### Federal Advocacy Conference

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

### 2025 National Conference

March 21-23, 2025 | Atlanta, GA

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## Registration Open for Fall District Meetings on Artificial Intelligence



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., and attendees will earn 1.5 hours in the School Board Member Academy.

**\* CONTACT YOUR BOARD SECRETARY TO REGISTER \***

**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)



## **Learn How to Incorporate Student Voices in Policies & Practices**

Join us **Thursday, July 18 from noon to 1 p.m.** for our next webinar, *Listening to Your Students*, as we dive into how some local school boards have made uplifting student voices a priority. Geneva County Schools Superintendent Becky Birdsong will discuss their experiences leading a student advisory council. She'll share how Geneva County's student group was established, how they operate and the purpose the council serves for the school system and the board.

**Cost:** \$55 individual, \$210 group | **Training Credit:** 1 hour

**\* CONTACT YOUR BOARD SECRETARY TO REGISTER \***

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## Nominate Your School Board's Shining Stars!

AASB is seeking nominations for its 2024 All-State School Board Member Award. School board presidents and superintendents will soon receive [eligibility and selection guidelines](#) for this prestigious recognition program that celebrates exemplary boardmanship.

**NOMINATION DEADLINE AUG. 15**

**REMEMBER:** endorsement by a majority vote of the nominee's local school board is required.

[View Nomination Form](#)



## Policy Pipeline is Coming: Is Your Board Subscribed?

AASB's [Policy Pipeline](#) is an annual publication that helps local boards of education keep their policy manuals up to date with a minimal investment of time and money. The subscription-based service provides expert insight and draft policies on key legal and administrative developments.

The 2024-2025 edition of the Policy Pipeline will be published in mid-July, and the annual **subscribers-only maintenance webinar will be held Thursday, July 25 at 10 a.m.** Participants can read the issue and ask any questions during this webinar.

### Don't Have a Pipeline Subscription?

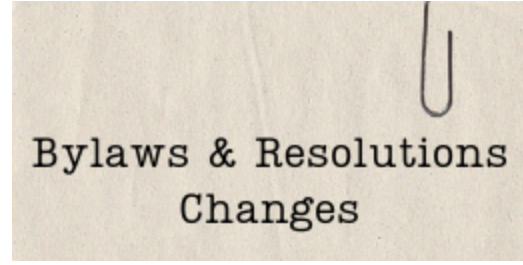
Currently, 108 school boards and charter schools are subscribed to AASB's Policy Pipeline. If your board isn't part of this policy-savvy group, now is the time to sign up! Contact us today to subscribe: [policy@AlabamaSchoolBoards.org](mailto:policy@AlabamaSchoolBoards.org)



## AASB President-Elect Nominations Due Sept. 1

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 the AASB Board of Directors; however, such service need not be consecutive to the individual's candidacy for or term of elective office.

Self-nomination forms will be sent in July and available online and must be sent to AASB on or before Sept. 1. Questions may be directed to Nominating Committee Chair and AASB Immediate Past President **Mary Hooks** (334-782-0354) or AASB Executive Assistant **Tammy Wright** (334-277-9700).



## 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](mailto:twright@AlabamaSchoolBoards.org)

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

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## 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**.



## Gov. Kay Ivey Signs School Board Compensation Bill

AASB staff and members of its Board of Directors attended Alabama Governor Kay Ivey's bill signing ceremony this week for our School Board Compensation bill, [Act 2024-331](#). We thank **Sen. Donnie Chesteen** and **Rep. Tracey Estes** for sponsoring this important legislation. We also thank our school board members who advocated for this and other public education legislation during the 2024 session.

Pictured L to R: District 5 Director **Derek Henderson**, Executive Director **Sally Smith**, **Sen. Donnie Chesteen**, **Gov. Kay Ivey**, District 4 Director **Matilda Woodyard-Hamilton**, Governmental Relations Coordinator **Tracey Meyer**, Immediate Past President **Mary Hooks** and Director of Governmental Relations **Ada Katherine van Wyhe**.

**BOARD MEMBER** *Spotlight*

**Meet Sharon Breaseale**  
Oneonta Board of Education

**Q:** What do you enjoy most about being a school board member?

**A:** — “ —  
I am a 1971 graduate of Oneonta City Schools. I lived out of the district, but my parents made the decision back then to enroll me in Oneonta. I have always loved my school system and feel truly honored at this point in my life to give back by serving on the board!

” —





## Board Member Spotlight: Sharon Breaseale

Sharon Breaseale, a member of the Oneonta City Board of Education since 2017, brings 35 years of experience as a librarian and media specialist to her role. Though retired for 12 years, she remains active as a Master Gardener and enjoys working on her community's beautification board. Sharon's commitment to service is captured in her personal mantra: "Do All You Can to Serve."

[Read More](#)



# Just Ask Jayne

## Secretary of State Website: School Board Meeting Notices

Dear Jayne:

I've heard some local boards use the Secretary of State's website to post notices of school board meetings. Is that the new way that we're supposed to post our meeting notices?

[View Answer](#)



## Statewide Education News

### 2024 Alabama Safe Schools Initiative Application

Alabama Attorney General Steve Marshall recently announced the application process for the 2024 Alabama Safe Schools Initiative Awards. The award provides the opportunity to identify and recognize excellence and current trends in school safety. The deadline to begin the 2024 application process is Friday, August 16, 2024. [Learn more.](#)

### New ALSDE Webpage for Public Comment

The Alabama State Department of Education has introduced a new webpage for public comments. The page includes notice of all documents available for public comment, including proposed Administrative Code rules changes. [Learn more.](#)

A banner for Ozark City Schools CSFO Search. It features the Ozark City Schools logo (a red and white eagle head) on the left. The text "Ozark City Schools" is in white on a red background, and "CSFO SEARCH" is in white on a black background. Below the text is a photo of a football team in black and white uniforms. A red box with white text says "Apply by July 15". A QR code is in the bottom left corner. Below the QR code is the text "LEARN MORE: https://bit.ly/ozark-csfo".

**Ozark City Schools**  
CSFO SEARCH

Apply by  
July 15

LEARN MORE: <https://bit.ly/ozark-csfo>

## AASB Job Board

### Ozark City Schools CSFO

The Ozark City Board of Education is seeking an experienced leader to serve as its next chief school financial officer (CSFO). The deadline to apply for the position is July 15. [Learn more/apply.](#)

[Morgan County Schools CSFO](#)

[Elba City Schools Superintendent](#)

An advertisement for the AASB Store. It features a woman in a light blue button-down shirt with a logo on the chest. The background is a dark blue gradient with a red and orange curved shape on the left. The text "Shop the AASB Store!" is in large white letters. Below it is the website "AlabamaSchoolBoards.LogoWearCompany.com".

**Shop the  
AASB Store!**

[AlabamaSchoolBoards.LogoWearCompany.com](https://AlabamaSchoolBoards.LogoWearCompany.com)



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