



June 14, 2024



Newly Released ACAP Reading Scores Take Center Stage at SBOE Work Session

Recently released third grade reading scores took center stage at Thursday's State Board of Education (SBOE) work session, with SBOE members highlighting concerns about various terms used to show "on grade level." As the first year the retention provision of the Alabama Literacy Act law goes into effect, third grade reading scores are now being used to determine which students are eligible for promotion to fourth grade. The 2023-2024 scores come after five years of concentrated investments in foundational reading resources for students, teachers, and educator preparation programs.

The Alabama Comprehensive Assessment Program (ACAP) test results show 91% of Alabama's third graders are "sufficient" in reading and are eligible for promotion to the fourth grade and 77% of those students are reading on or above grade level. The

14%-point gap between "sufficient" and "on grade level" equals about 7,400 third graders being promoted to fourth grade who may not be reading at grade level. Approximately 4,800 students will require additional support before entering fourth grade. This number was almost 10,000 students last year.

State Superintendent of Education Eric Mackey delivered a presentation about the ACAP reading subtest scores for third graders, sparking robust discussion among SBOE members. The discussion centered on whether students who scored above the cut score had truly demonstrated grade-level readiness, and how the different terms used may be confusing.

Other action and discussion from Thursday's SBOE meeting and work session included:

- Numeracy Act implementation;
- Computer Science high school graduation requirement;
- State course of study updates;
- ESSER, budget and legislative updates;
- and more.

[Read Full Story](#)



WEBINAR:
Rethinking Alabama's School Funding Formula

JULY 2: Rethinking Alabama's School Funding Formula

Join us **Tuesday, July 2 from noon to 1 p.m.** for a free webinar presented by the A+ Education Partnership. As a new statewide coalition explores changes to modernize Alabama's school funding formula, representatives from A+ Education Partnership will take a deep dive into what can be done to ensure every child in the state has access to a world-class education system, regardless of zip code or circumstance.

[Register Now](#)



AASB Orientation: Helping New Board Members Navigate Board Service

Whether you're a new school board member eager to learn the nuts and bolts of school board service or a veteran member seeking a refresher, AASB's two-part orientation provides a wealth of information to strengthen leadership and boardmanship skills. Next offered at AASB's office in Montgomery July 12 & 13, orientation provides an excellent team-building opportunity for superintendents and new school board members who attend together.

DID YOU KNOW? Even if they have not yet taken office, your incoming board members are already eligible to participate in board member training at board expense. ([See AG Opinion](#)).

Roles & Responsibilities - Friday, July 12

Part I of AASB's school board member orientation, Roles & Responsibilities covers the role of the board and the superintendent, the Open Meetings Act, the ethics law, and much more. The course will be offered Friday, July 12 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the AASB office in Montgomery. Attendees will earn 8 training hours. [> REGISTER](#)

Effective Boards & Relationships - Saturday, July 13

Part II of AASB's school board member orientation, Effective Boards & Relationships takes an in-depth look at effective school board leadership, how your board should work with its superintendent and board attorney, and the art of advocacy. The course will be offered Saturday, July 13 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the AASB office in Montgomery. Attendees will earn 6 training hours. [> REGISTER](#)

NOTE: *The School Board Governance Improvement Act requires all new board members to take an Orientation covering mandated topics within one year of the July 1 after taking office.*



Don't Forget Your Summer Conference Book Drive Donations!

We are now just two weeks away from AASB's Summer Conference at the Lodge at Gulf State Park June 28-30! Please remember to bring your donations of new or like-new books to the annual Summer Conference Book Drive to help promote literacy and combat the "summer slide" for students at all grade levels. Donations will be given to the South Baldwin County Literacy Council in support of its summer reading program.

See below to find out what grade level books your district is asked to provide, and drop off your donation at the AASB Summer Conference registration desk.

**AASB Districts 1, 2 & 3:
Please donate books for grades K-5.**

**AASB Districts 4, 5 & 6:
Please donate books for grades 6-8.**

**AASB Districts 7, 8 & 9:
Please donate books for grades 9-12.**

Haven't yet registered for Summer Conference or the School Safety Summit pre-conference session? You still have time! [LEARN MORE.](#)



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

This year's nomination deadline is **Aug. 15, 2024.**

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

[View Nomination Form](#)



Policy Pipeline is Coming: Subscribe Starting July 8

Mark your calendars! If your school board isn't already receiving AASB's Policy Pipeline, **new subscriptions open Monday, July 8, 2024.**

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 as well as relevant draft policies on 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 convenient webinar.

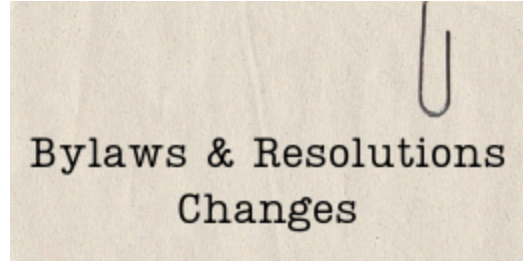
Stay tuned for more information.



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

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



Need Training Hours by June 30?

Short of your state-mandated individual training hours for the 2023-24 training year? AASB's online learning portal, School Board U, offers a convenient way to earn hours from the comfort of home!

School Board U features all eight of AASB's core courses in the School Board Member Academy, including new board member orientation courses. Recorded webinars as well as informational and elective courses also are available, and several courses are free. [View the complete School Board U catalog.](#)

Miss these Popular Webinars? Watch On-Demand, Earn Hours



Examine the real-life case of an Alabama school system targeted in a major cyberattack. Officials from Jefferson County Schools discuss the system's response and lessons learned from a 2023 ransomware attack. Susan Poling, executive director of the Alabama Leaders in Educational Technology (ALET), offers additional insights on identifying cybersecurity risks and protecting school data. (\$55)

[View Webinar](#)



School board members are responsible for the spending decisions of millions of school system dollars. Dale County Schools Chief School Financial Officer Jesse James breaks down the complexities of financial statements and provides tips to help school board members interpret and analyze financial data. This webinar offers several key takeaways for veteran and new school board members alike. (\$55)

[View Webinar](#)



Board Member Spotlight: Felecia Minor

Felecia Minor is now in her 10th year as a member of the Midfield City Board of Education. A professional loan underwriter for Regions Bank, Felecia enjoys spending free time reading and working with her church's youth department. In her school board service, professional and personal life, she lives by the mantra: "Treat people as you would want to be treated."

[Read More](#)



Just Ask Jayne

Acting Superintendent, Interim Superintendent: What's the Difference?

Dear Jayne:

Is there a difference between an “acting superintendent” and an “interim superintendent”? I’ve heard them both used but I’m not sure if they mean the same thing or not!

[View Answer](#)

Mark Your Calendar: Fall District Meetings on Artificial Intelligence

2024 FALL DISTRICT MEETINGS

District 1	District 2	District 3	District 4	District 5
TUES. SEPT. 17	TUES. AUG. 27	THURS. SEPT. 19	THURS. AUG. 29	TUES. SEPT. 3
Saraland	Selma	Ozark	Montgomery	Alabaster

District 6	District 7	District 8	District 9
MON. AUG. 19	THURS. AUG. 22	THURS. SEPT. 5	THURS. SEPT. 12
Anniston	Tuscaloosa	Decatur	Huntsville

SAVE THE DATE ALABAMA ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL BOARDS

Dates and locations for AASB's 2024 Fall District Meetings are set. This year's topic is a timely primer for school boards on navigating the world of generative artificial intelligence and its implications for K-12 education.

Save the date now for your district's meeting. All meeting times will be 6 to 8:30 p.m. Earn 2 training hours. More information and registration details to come.

**Shop the
AASB Store!**

AlabamaSchoolBoards.LogoWearCompany.com



Alabama Association of School Boards
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800-562-0601

