



**May 10, 2024**



## **SBOE Adopts New Code Rules Pertaining to Literacy Coursework and Principal Leadership**

The Alabama State Board of Education adopted administrative code rule changes Thursday related to the Alabama Literacy Act and the Alabama School Leadership and Mentorship Act.

The new code rule 290-3-3-.61 updates standards requiring educator prep programs to align courses to the science of reading in early childhood and elementary education. The rule also prohibits educator prep programs and public K-12 schools from using three-cueing, a teaching technique that encourages students to use semantic and grammatical cues first when attempting read an unknown word. Colleges of education must implement the new standards in pre-service teacher coursework by August 2024.

The board also voted to adopt new administrative code rule 290-4-3-.04, which updates standards for principal leadership development for the first time since 2006. The change is necessitated by the Alabama School Principal Leadership and Mentorship Act passed in 2023, which is part of a strategy to bolster the state's principal pipeline. Principals and assistant principals are required to meet the new standards for professional learning for eligibility to receive monetary stipends set forth in the legislation. The board also repealed and replaced administrative code rule 290-4-3.01 to update required standards for all educator professional learning.

Other discussion and action items from the May 9 board meeting and work session included:

- 2024-2025 State Textbook Committee for Science grades K-12;

- 2024-2025 State Textbook Committee for Career and Technical Education Clusters (Arts, AV Technology and Communications, Health Science, and Human Services);
- Code rule changes related to the Alabama Numeracy Act;
- and more.

[Read Full Story](#)



**WEBINAR:**  
**Legislative Session Recap**

**JUNE 14 | NOON**

**AASB LEGISLATIVE TEAM**

 <p><b>Sally Smith, J.D.</b> Executive Director ssmith@AlabamaSchoolBoards.org</p>	 <p><b>Ada Katherine van Wyhe, MPA</b> Director of Governmental Relations akwyhe@AlabamaSchoolBoards.org</p>	 <p><b>Tracey Meyer</b> Governmental Relations Coordinator tmeyer@AlabamaSchoolBoards.org</p>
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## Get the Scoop on Highs & Lows of the 2024 Session

Join us **Friday, June 14 from noon to 1 p.m.** for a free webinar reviewing key issues from Alabama's 2024 Legislative session. Executive Director **Sally Smith**, Director of Governmental Relations **Ada Katherine van Wyhe** and Governmental Relations Coordinator **Tracey Meyer** will discuss the education bills that did and did not pass, share the inside scoop on action from the final days of the session and answer your questions about bills that will impact your systems.

***NOTE:** No training hours will be given for participating in this webinar. Details on how to join the webinar will be provided in your confirmation email.*

[Register Now](#)



**NEW BOARD MEMBER ORIENTATION**

**ALABAMA ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL BOARDS**

**Large Turnout Expected for Orientation, Reserve Your Spot Today!**

**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](#)).

AASB's two-part orientation, which will be next offered July 12 & 13, provides a wealth of information to get new board members up to speed and off to a strong start. We expect a large turnout, and space is limited, so sign up today!

### **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.*

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## **Schools Encouraged to Review Filtering and Settings for Online Library Platforms**

For months, many of us have watched [controversies](#) erupt around the country and in our own communities surrounding the content available to young children at libraries. While most of our school administrators and librarians have managed this issue responsibly, another concern has arisen.

Post-pandemic, many schools provide students Chromebooks or other electronic devices for instructional purposes to use at home and/or at school. Some schools also provide students online library platforms to encourage reading and provide unlimited access to books our students may not otherwise have.

It would be virtually impossible for a school to vet every book available on such a platform. Each system may want to review the available filtering options and settings for students using the platforms so that the school can adjust the settings as appropriate based on the age and maturity of the students and/or the wishes of the student's parents.

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# SUMMER CONFERENCE BOOK DRIVE

## Help Reduce Summer Slide, Boost Literacy

The countdown is on to AASB's annual Summer Conference **June 28-30** in Gulf Shores. We're calling on all attendees to donate new or like-new books to help promote literacy and combat the "summer slide" for students at all grade levels. Simply drop off your book donations at the AASB registration area during the Conference.

Below are the grade-level books we're asking AASB districts to donate:

- **AASB Districts 1, 2 & 3:** Grades K-5
- **AASB Districts 4, 5 & 6:** Grades 6-8
- **AASB Districts 7, 8 & 9:** Grades 9-12

Haven't yet registered for Summer Conference or the School Safety Summit pre-conference session? You still have time!

[Register for Summer Conference or Learn More](#)



## 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.](#)

**Catch this Year's Most Popular Webinars On-Demand**



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: Rosalyn Langston

Rosalyn Langston has been a member of the Roanoke City Board of Education since 2014 and currently serves as board president.

She is grateful for the opportunity to contribute directly to the education and well-being of her community.

Rosalyn is most proud of the hands-on experience students gain through system's Outdoor Education Center, which features a greenhouse, catfish ponds, flower and vegetable gardens and beehive boxes.

[Read More](#)



## Congrats to Alabama's 2024-25 Teacher of the Year!

Elmore County Schools teacher **Deborah Stringfellow** is Alabama's 2024-25 Teacher of the Year. Stringfellow, a fourth-grade teacher at Airport Road Intermediate School, now begins a year-long role as the state's official ambassador for public education and the teaching profession. A first-generation high school and college graduate, Stringfellow is a passionate advocate for providing a quality education for every student. She shared her teaching philosophy during Thursday's State Board of Education meeting: "I don't feel that it's my job to shape the road ahead for my students, but to shape my students for the road ahead."

[Read More](#)



# Just Ask Jayne

## Holding Diplomas for Unreturned Chromebooks?

Dear Jayne:

We're getting ready for graduation but we have a few students who have outstanding Chromebooks. Can we hold their diplomas until they either return the devices or pay for them?

[View Answer](#)

## Mark Your Calendar for Fall District Meetings on Artificial Intelligence

# 2024 FALL DISTRICT MEETINGS

District 1 <b>TUES. SEPT. 17</b> Saraland	District 2 <b>TUES. AUG. 27</b> Selma	District 3 <b>THURS. SEPT. 19</b> Ozark	District 4 <b>THURS. AUG. 29</b> Montgomery	District 5 <b>TUES. SEPT. 3</b> Alabaster	
<h2 style="font-size: 2em; margin: 0;">SAVE THE DATE</h2> <span style="font-size: 0.8em; vertical-align: middle;">ALABAMA ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL BOARDS</span>		District 6 <b>MON. AUG. 19</b> Anniston	District 7 <b>THURS. AUG. 22</b> Tuscaloosa	District 8 <b>THURS. SEPT. 5</b> Decatur	District 9 <b>THURS. SEPT. 12</b> Huntsville

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.

## WE'RE HIRING!

Administrative Assistant  
to Leadership Development

**APPLICATION DEADLINE:**  
Open until filled

### AASB is Hiring: Administrative Assistant

We're seeking a detail-oriented team player to serve as **administrative assistant** for the Leadership Development department. The Leadership Development department oversees association member relations, awards and recognitions, the AASB School Board Member Academy and whole board training.

[Learn More/Apply](#)

## Shop the AASB Store!

AlabamaSchoolBoards.LogoWearCompany.com



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