



May 9, 2025



State Board Honors Alabama Teacher of the Year, Addresses Parental Leave and RAISE Act

Alabama's education leaders recognized Katie Collins of Bluff Park Elementary School (Hoover City Schools) as the 2025-2026 Teacher of the Year, Aubrey Bennet of Georgia Washington Carver High School (Birmingham City Schools) and 14 district finalists during Thursday's State Board of Education meeting.

Board members also engaged in extensive discussions about the state's first-ever paid parental leave program set to begin July 1 and examined implementation challenges for the newly enacted RAISE Act's hybrid student-weighted funding model.

State Superintendent of Education Dr. Eric Mackey provided an update on the ETF budget and issued a warning about a "true funding crisis" looming due to rising school bus costs affected by new tariffs.

[Read Full Story](#)



Sign Up Now for AASB's Legislative Recap Webinar

Join us Friday, June 13 from noon to 1 p.m. for an informative webinar recapping the highs and lows of Alabama's 2025 Legislative Session.

You'll hear directly from AASB's Governmental Relations team, who will:

- Review which education bills passed and failed
- Provide insider perspective from the session's final days
- Share their firsthand experience advocating for public education
- Discuss their direct involvement in shaping key legislation
- Answer your questions about how these changes affect your school system

The Legislative Session Recap is AASB's most popular webinar every year. Reserve your spot today!

This webinar is a free AASB member benefit. No training hours will be awarded.

[Register Now](#)

Orientation Session	Training Hours	Date & Time	Fees
Roles & Responsibilities Orientation	8 Training Hours	Friday, July 11, 2025 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.	School board members: \$99; Superintendents: \$79
Effective Boards & Relationships Orientation	6 Training Hours	Saturday, July 12, 2025 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.	School board members: \$79; Superintendents: \$59

LOCATION: AASB OFFICE

Registration Now Open for New Board Member Orientation

Registration is open for AASB's comprehensive two-day orientation, designed to equip

new board members with essential knowledge and skills for successful board service. Our next session will be held July 11 & 12 at our Montgomery office.

DAY 1: Roles & Responsibilities | Friday, July 11 | 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Part I of AASB's school board member orientation, Roles & Responsibilities, focuses on foundational governance concepts including board and superintendent responsibilities, Open Meetings Act requirements, ethics law compliance, and additional critical information for effective board service. \$99 | 8 training hours

DAY 2: Effective Boards & Relationships - Saturday, July 12 | 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Part II of AASB's school board member orientation, Effective Boards & Relationships, covers elements of exemplary school board leadership, community engagement strategies, best practices for working with your superintendent and school board attorney, and tips to advocate for your school system's priorities. \$79 | 6 training hours

DID YOU KNOW?

- **Incoming Board Members:** Even if they have not yet taken office, incoming board members may participate in training at board expense. ([See AG Opinion](#))
- **Experienced Board Members Welcome:** Orientation is an excellent refresher for veteran board members to reinforce their knowledge and stay current with best practices.
- **Superintendent Discount:** Superintendents who attend with their new board members receive a \$20 registration discount.

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.

Contact Your Board Secretary or AASB to Register

Upcoming National Events for School Boards



Join Us in D.C. for COSSBA Advocacy Conference

With the wave of new education executive orders and federal policies impacting public education nationwide, school board voices are needed now more than ever. Don't let decisions affecting your school system be made without your input.

Register now to join education leaders from across the nation to engage with policymakers and advocate for students at the Consortium of State School Boards Association's (COSSBA) Federal Advocacy Conference **Sept.7-9, 2025**, in Washington, D.C.

Registration Details

- **Early Bird Rate:** \$675.00 before July 18, 2025
- **After July 18, 2025:** \$725.00

Hotel Reservations: Act Now, Rooms Will Go Quickly!

The group room rate at the Grand Hyatt Washington is \$349.00 per night, plus tax. Availability is limited, and rooms will be offered on a first-come, first-served basis until the block is full.

[Learn More/Register for Conference](#)

[Reserve Your Hotel Room](#)

COSSBA School Safety Symposium in St. Louis June 25-27



Join the premier gathering for school system safety teams including school board members, superintendents, communications directors and safety directors at the Consortium of State School Boards Association's (COSSBA) National School Safety Symposium **June 25-27 in St. Louis, Mo.**

You don't want to miss this opportunity to gain the knowledge, tools, and connections needed to better protect your students, staff and community!

[Learn More/Register for Symposium](#)



Plan Ahead: Add Fall District Meeting Dates to Your Calendar

Be sure to save the date for your AASB Fall District Meeting. This year's district meetings will provide important statewide updates on critical education and policy issues. We'll also celebrate board member achievements in the School Board Member Academy, honor Team Training Achievement Award winners and recognize district superintendents of the year.

All meeting times will be 6 to 8:30 p.m. More information and registration details to come, including meeting venues.

- **District 1:** Tuesday, Sept. 16 | [Add to Calendar](#)
- **District 2:** Tuesday, Aug. 26 | [Add to Calendar](#)
- **District 3:** Monday, Aug. 25 | [Add to Calendar](#)
- **District 4:** Monday, Aug. 18 | [Add to Calendar](#)
- **District 5:** Thursday, Sept. 11 | [Add to Calendar](#)
- **District 6:** Monday, Sept. 15 | [Add to Calendar](#)
- **District 7:** Thursday, Aug. 21 | [Add to Calendar](#)
- **District 8:** Thursday, Sept. 4 | [Add to Calendar](#)
- **District 9:** Monday, Sept. 22 | [Add to Calendar](#)



Alabama 2025-26 Teacher of the Year Announced

Katie H. Collins of Bluff Park Elementary School (Hoover City Schools) has been named the 2025-2026 Alabama Teacher of the Year.

Selected from an elite group of finalists, Collins will serve as the state's ambassador for public education while continuing her work as an accomplished educator who inspires students and families throughout her community.

[Read More](#)



Spotlight: Pike County School Board Member Named One of Nation's Top Teach Leaders

Dr. Greg Price, a member of the Pike County school board since 2002 and chief technology and security officer for Troy University, has been named among the Top 10 technology leaders in the nation for the second year in a row!

Price has served previously as AASB's District 3 Director and has shared his tech expertise at several AASB events.

[Read More](#)

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AASB Job Board

Dothan City Schools: Superintendent

The Dothan City Board of Education is seeking an experienced and dedicated leader with a strong background in driving student success to become its next superintendent. This search is being conducted by AASB.

The application deadline is **May 20, 2025**.

[Learn More/Apply](#)



Shop the AASB Store!

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