



October 11, 2024



SBOE Approves FY26 Foundation Program Budget Request, New ACAP Cut Scores

The State Board of Education Thursday approved a requested increase of \$55 million for the Foundation Program in the FY26 Education Trust Fund (ETF) budget. The Board also established a new cut score for the lowest level in reading on the Alabama Comprehensive Assessment Program (ACAP), with several Board members sharing concerns from constituents and educators alike about the need for a higher cut score, and two dissenting members noting the new cut score is not high enough to prevent third graders not reading sufficiently from promotion to the fourth grade.

For fourth grade promotion under the Alabama Literacy Act, the lowest achievement level for the reading subtest of the ACAP is now set at the following raw scores and schedule:

- Previous 435 cut score for 2023-2024
- 444 cut score for 2024-2025
- 444 cut score for 2025-2026
- 454 cut score for 2026-2027

Other board meeting and work session discussion included updates on Social Studies and Arts Courses of Study and Samford University's undergraduate and graduate educator preparation programs.


[Read Full Story](#)

NEW LOCATION!
Montgomery, Ala.

2024 Annual Convention
& Delegate Assembly

POLISHING *Potential*

Dec. 5-7, 2024 | Renaissance Montgomery Hotel & Spa




AlabamaSchoolBoards.org/AASBConvention

Inspiration Awaits: Prepare to be Wowed by 2024 Convention Speakers

You still have time to register for the annual AASB Convention & Delegate Assembly, which will be held Dec. 5-7 at the Montgomery Renaissance Hotel & Spa (8 training hours, cost \$299). **Contact AASB or your board secretary to register.**

You don't want to miss this year's outstanding speaker lineup, including award-winning author, speaker and artist, **Sam Glenn**, with a motivating keynote, "Attitude is Everything," and **Willie Spears**, former educator and coach turned author and motivational speaker who will energize attendees to embrace a winning mindset in leadership.

Ginny Burton (read her spotlight below), will speak about her journey of overcoming addiction and incarceration, illustrating the power of hope and determination.



SPEAKER SPOTLIGHT: Ginny Burton

*From Addiction to Inspiration: A Powerful
Journey of Transformation*

Convention keynote speaker, **Ginny Burton**, will share her inspiring story of personal redemption and transformation from prison and addiction to college graduate, Truman Scholar and tireless advocate for "incarceration with intention."

Pre-Convention Workshop: Student Discipline

Arrive early and join us **Thursday, Dec. 5 from 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.** for the Student Discipline Workshop (lunch included) exploring the root causes of student discipline issues, innovative practices to reduce behavior problems and policies that foster safer

learning environments (4 training hours, cost: \$109). **Contact AASB or your board secretary to register.**

AASB Diamond Legacy Reception: Celebrating 75 Years



MARK YOUR CALENDAR: Join us immediately after Friday's closing session for the Diamond Legacy Reception, commemorating 75 years of unwavering dedication to Alabama's students and schools. This spectacular evening is the culminating celebration of our diamond anniversary and the enduring impact of school board leadership in public education.



Let's Make the Holidays Brighter for Families in Need

AASB will be collecting donations of new, unwrapped toys for our fourth annual Convention Toy Drive. This year, we're taking a new approach to ensure every child receives a perfect gift.

How It Works

- Each participating school board will be assigned a specific age and gender to shop for.
- This targeted approach will help ensure our donations meet the diverse needs of children across different age groups.
- Participants will bring their toy donations to the AASB Convention at the Renaissance Montgomery Hotel & Spa.

Stay tuned for additional details!



Mark Whole Board Training off Your Board's To-Do List

Schedule and complete your AASB-led Whole Board Training in **October, November or December** and your board secretary will have a chance to win one of three \$50 gift cards.

Browse this year's [Whole Board Training brochure](#) for a list of more than 30 interactive courses developed to meet your board's needs and fulfill the two-hour, state-mandated Whole Board Training requirement.

For more information, contact Leadership Development Coordinator **Candi Longnecker** at clongnecker@alabamaschoolboards.org or call 800-562-0601.

District Meetings: A.I. Session Available Online



The world of artificial intelligence (AI) is here. Are you ready to dive in?

This year's AASB Fall District Meetings training, Artificial Intelligence: A Primer for School Boards, is now available on AASB's online learning platform, School Board U. The course 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.

Questions? Contact Ava Cranmore at sbu@AlabamaSchoolBoards.org.

[View School Board U Online Catalog](#)



Upcoming AASB Webinars Examine School Cell Phone Restrictions, Rights of Incarcerated Students

Mark your calendars and watch your inbox! Registration opens soon for these two informative AASB webinars:

- **OCT. 24, NOON - 1 PM:** Silent Mode: The Impact of Cell Phone Restrictions in Schools

- **NOV. 7, NOON - 1 PM:** Arrested Learning: Navigating the Educational Rights of Incarcerated Students.
-



New Board Member Orientations in January

Election season is upon us, and AASB is here to make sure Alabama's newest board members get off to a strong start. AASB will hold its next session of New Board Member Orientation **Jan. 10 & 11, 2025**. The two-part course includes:

- **Roles & Responsibilities:** This course covers the nuts and bolts of education law, ethics, finance, running effective board meetings and more.
- **Effective Boards & Relationships:** This course focuses on how members of the board relate with one another and how the board establishes and maintains relationships with the board attorney, community, policymakers and others to improve student learning.

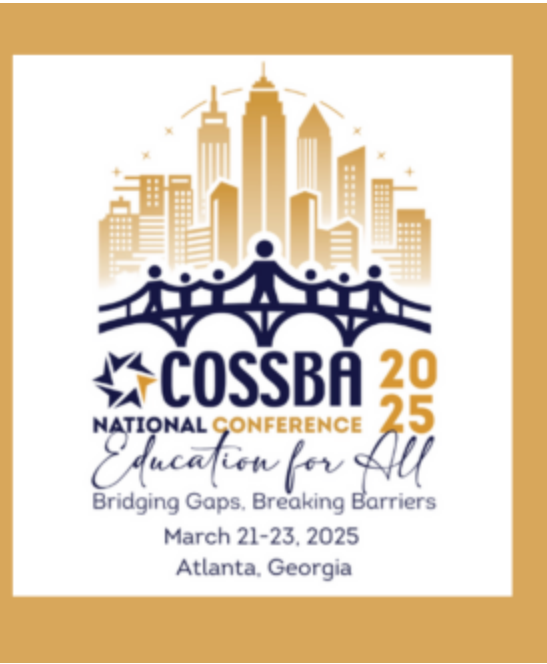
Alabama law requires orientation for new school board members. AASB's course fulfills the state's orientation requirement as well as the state ethics course requirement for public officials. Newly seated board members must complete orientation within one year of the July 1 after taking office.



Cybersecurity Pilot for Schools and Libraries

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) recently launched the \$200 million, three-year Schools and Libraries Cybersecurity Pilot Program to explore how Universal Service funds can be used to help schools and libraries secure their broadband and computer networks against cyberattacks. Applications are due Nov. 1.

[Learn More](#)



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](#)

Other Upcoming COSSBA Events

- **WEBINAR: Unified Board Alliance**
Meeting the Academic Needs of Your Homeless Students
Wednesday, Oct. 16 | 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. CST
[REGISTER NOW](#)
- **SAVE THE DATE: 2025 Federal Advocacy Conference**
Sept. 7-9, 2025 | Washington, D.C.



75th Anniversary Student Art Contest Deadline Oct. 18

Students from across Alabama are invited to showcase their artistic talents while helping AASB celebrate 75 years of educational leadership in our state. More than

\$3,000 in prize money is up for grabs, and a number of submissions already have been received!

Theme:

The contest theme is "Diamond Legacy: 75 Years of Illuminating Education Leadership in Alabama."

Key Details:

- **Eligibility:** All Alabama public school students, grades K-12
- **Winners selected in two categories:** K-5 and 6-12
- **Prizes:** 1st Place (each category): \$1,000, 2nd Place (each category): \$500
- **Submission Period:** August 12 - October 18, 2024
- **Winners Announced:** Nov. 1, 2024

We encourage students to creatively interpret our theme, reflecting on the impact of school board leadership in Alabama over the past 75 years. Artwork can be in any 2D medium, such as painting, drawing, or mixed media.

Award Ceremony:

Winners will be recognized and awarded their prizes Saturday, December 7, 2024, during the closing general session of AASB's Annual Convention at the Renaissance Montgomery Hotel & Spa.

[Learn More](#)



Delegates/Alternate Names Due Oct. 31

Make your voice heard by choosing your delegates and alternates for AASB's annual Delegate Assembly, which will be held Thursday, Dec. 5 during the annual AASB Convention in Montgomery.

Delegate/alternate forms have been mailed to all school boards. Oct. 31 is the deadline for boards to provide AASB with delegate and alternate names. If your board **has not** received your form, please [email kbates@alabamaschoolboards.org](mailto:kbates@alabamaschoolboards.org).

You may submit your names online, email to kbates@alabamaschoolboards.org or mail to P.O. Box 4980, Montgomery, AL 36103-4980.

Delegate/alternate names may be mailed to P.O. Box 4980, Montgomery AL 36103-4980 or emailed to kbates@alabamaschoolboards.org.



District Director Ballots Due Oct. 31

Ballots listing nominees for AASB District 1 Director have been mailed to District 1 members. Board presidents must certify the board voted at a meeting to choose a candidate, and ballots must be received or postmarked by Oct. 31. Questions? Call AASB at 800-562-0601 or email exec@alabamaschoolboards.org for more information.



'Get in the Game' with AASB Membership Card

Did you know your AASB membership card (non-transferable) entitles you to free admission to AHSAA state championship playoff games if a school in your system is competing? To request your membership card, call AASB at 800-562-0601 or send us an email at membership@AlabamaSchoolBoards.org.



#Thank a Principal

October is National Principals Month, a celebration of the vision, dedication and determination principals provide as champions of student success. [Learn more.](#)



Celebrate American Education Week Nov. 18- 22

Join the National Education Association in celebrating American Education Week, Nov. 18-22. This annual observance is an excellent opportunity to celebrate public education and public school educators. [Learn more.](#)

BOARD MEMBER *Spotlight*

Meet Stephanie Smith
Tuscumbia City Board of Education

Q: What is one piece of advice you would share with an incoming board member?
A: — “ —

Genuinely learn more about the people you serve with, support the people you serve and lean into each other's strengths to serve the district.

” —

TUSCUMBIA CITY SCHOOLS



ALABAMA SCHOOLS & SCHOOL BOARDS

Board Member Spotlight: Stephanie Smith

Stephanie Smith was appointed to the Tuscumbia City Board of Education in 2020. She is excited about the growth in the school system that is leading to facility expansions. Since becoming a board member, she has learned to have a bird's eye view and to focus on the areas of strength each board member brings to the table. Like most school board members, she says she's also learned a lot of acronyms!

[Read More](#)



Just Ask Jayne

Executive Session: Is the Board Attorney Required to Certify?

Dear Jayne:

When our board enters executive session, our attorney always certifies it as appropriate. Is this required?

[View Answer](#)



Shop the AASB Store!

AlabamaSchoolBoards.LogoWearCompany.com



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