



October 14, 2022



SBOE Takes Deeper Dive into Barksdale Report, Discusses Praxis Pass Rates

The State Board of Education held a comprehensive discussion Thursday on a final report from the Barksdale Reading Institute examining coursework alignment with the Science of Reading for 25 Alabama teacher education programs.

Barksdale was contracted in 2020 to provide an external review of the nine-hour required sequence of early literacy courses in Alabama's educator preparation programs. The purpose of the review was to ensure that these reading courses are aligned with the Science of Reading (SOR) and the intent of the Alabama Literacy Act #2019-523 (ALA).

Barksdale Reading Institute representative, Dr. Kelley Butler, presented nine takeaways to the board, with most of the discussion centering around the first two:

Takeaway #1: Alignment to Science of Reading (SOR)

- 23% of courses are fully aligned with SOR and evidence-based practices.
- 16% are not aligned at all.
- 51% of courses are inconsistent in alignment to SOR, reflecting a confusing mix of SOR and non-SOR practices. However, it is clear there is growing awareness of what is meant by the Science of Reading and reviewers conclude that Alabama Educator Prep Programs are moving in the right direction.
- 10% of programs provided insufficient information to determine alignment.

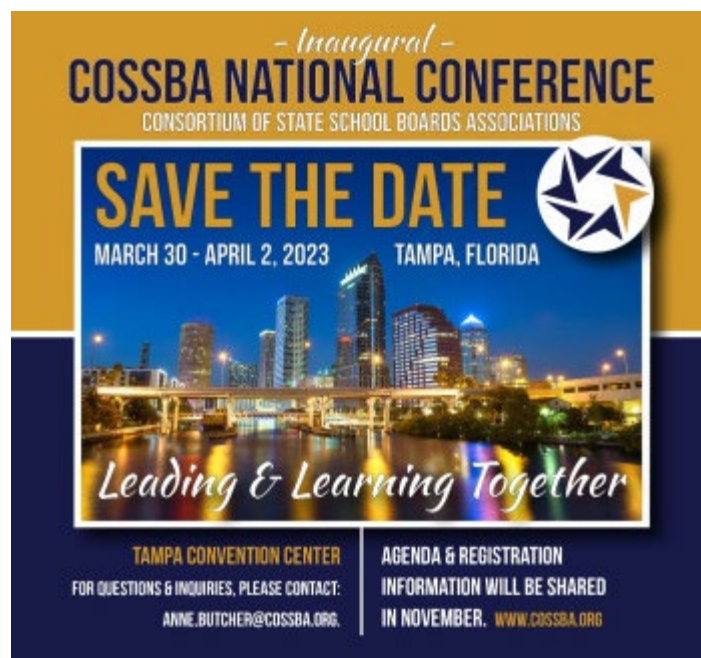
Takeaway #2: Textbooks

- Out of 93 textbooks reviewed, 63% were identified as either fairly aligned, minimally aligned or not aligned.
- Courses most aligned to SOR adhere to a handful of SOR-aligned textbooks.

Other work session discussion included Praxis pass rates, legislative priorities for the 2023 session and the proposed CCR graduation requirement.

Board meeting action included approval of the FY24 Foundation Program Appropriation Budget Request, which includes a \$25 million dollar increase for career technical education grants in support of the proposed CCR graduation requirement.

[Read Full Story](#)



Mark Your Calendar for COSSBA National Conference, Submit Breakout Proposals by Oct. 21

AASB is excited to announce dates of the inaugural COSSBA Annual Conference **March 30 - April 2, 2023** in Tampa, Florida! This exciting three-day event will include ample learning opportunities, inspiring keynote speakers, and dedicated times for member networking. The event will open with an early bird session hosted by the Urban Boards Alliance March 30, where members from both rural and suburban school systems can engage in educational strategies and share best practices that address and improve the educational outcomes of students within challenging environments.

The full Conference agenda including breakout sessions, keynote information, and further details will be available next month. In the meantime, please save the date!

Call for Breakout Proposals: Share What's Working in Your System

From governance and leadership, to school safety and mental health, to student achievement and more, COSSBA is seeking breakout session proposals from school systems willing to share best practices and lessons learned.

The deadline to [submit a breakout session proposal](#) is **Friday, Oct. 21, 2022**. [Learn more about breakout session categories and criteria](#).



Help Your Board Secretary Have a Chance to Win a \$50 Gift Card!

From reminding the board about its annual Whole Board Training requirement, to polling individual board members for an available date and time that works for everyone, to handling the dinner order for the training, we know board secretaries are the real MVP!

We're excited to announce AASB's new quarterly drawing just for board secretaries!

If your board completes its 2022-2023 two-hour Whole Board Training requirement in October, November or December, your board secretary will be entered into a drawing for one of three \$50 gift cards.

For more information about the drawing or to book your board's training, contact Executive Assistant for Leadership Development Stephanie Bell:

- **EMAIL:** training@AlabamaSchoolBoards.org
- **PHONE:** 800-562-0601

[View Whole Board Training Brochure](#)



The Countdown is on to AASB Convention!

You still have time to register for the annual AASB Convention & Delegate Assembly which will be held Dec. 1-3 at the Hyatt Regency Birmingham - The Wynfrey Hotel.

Earn up to 8 training hours and enjoy this an exciting speaker lineup, including 2021 Time Kid of the Year, Orion Jean, who will share an inspiring message about the life-changing power of kindness. Also, New York Times bestselling author, educator and business leadership adviser Stedman Graham will motivate attendees to hone in on their unique strengths and skills in his session, "Identity Leadership." [Register Now.](#)

Pre-Convention Workshop | Dec. 1 | 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Arrive early and join us **Thursday, Dec. 1 from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.** for the Continuous School Improvement Workshop offering helpful information about leadership and supports to improve student achievement in systems with underperforming schools. Workshop registration is \$50; Lunch is included. 3.5 training hours. [Register Now.](#)

Delegate Assembly | Dec. 1 | 6:30 p.m.

Delegate Assembly, AASB's annual business meeting, will be held in conjunction with Winter Convention. Delegates will vote on AASB's president-elect as well as changes to our bylaws and resolutions that will govern the Association in 2023. Members are welcome to join Delegate Assembly at no cost. Delegate Assembly will begin on Thursday, December 1 at 6:30 p.m. in the Wynfrey Ballroom at the Hyatt Regency Birmingham—The Wynfrey Hotel.

Convention Toy Drive

AASB will be collecting donations of new, unwrapped toys for our second annual Convention Toy Drive! Donations will benefit Alabama children and families in need. Each district has been assigned a specific age range to supply donations for.

- **Districts 1-3:** Please bring new, unwrapped toys for ages 0-3
- **Districts 4-6:** Please bring new, unwrapped toys for ages 4-6.
- **Districts 7-9:** Please bring new, unwrapped toys for ages 7-10.

Please bring your donations with you to Convention (or take advantage of the Convention location inside the Riverchase Galleria and do your shopping while there)! Together, we can make the holiday season brighter for Alabama children. Donations will go to the City of Birmingham Mayor's Office Division of Youth Services (DYS) Holiday Toy Giveaway campaign.

Don't Miss These Great November Events



WEBINAR: Talking to Your Community About Counseling Standards

School counseling programs play a key role in improving not only academic outcomes for students but also behavioral outcomes, yet misperceptions abound regarding what school counselors actually do and what issues they address.

Join 2023 Alabama Superintendent of the Year Dr. Dicky Barlow of Mountainbrook City Schools along with the system's Director of Student Services Amanda Hood and lead counselor Anna Carlisle for an informative webinar about how to discuss counseling standards with your community to increase understanding and buy-in.

[Register Now](#)

Join AASB for SBOE Advocacy Day

Join us in Montgomery Nov. 9 and 10 for AASB's State Board of Education Advocacy Day. Get an up-close look as the board conducts its business, discusses K-12 priorities and shapes public education policy.

Wednesday, Nov. 9, 6-8 p.m. AASB staff will provide training on the role of the state board of education and its impact on public education policy. State board members will be participating in a panel discussion highlighting key education issues, followed by dinner.

Thursday, Nov. 10, start the day at AASB's office with a light breakfast and training session at 8 a.m., followed by a visit to the Gordon Persons Building to watch the State BOE meeting and work session in action. Lunch will be provided for those attending the work session.

[Register Now](#)

Important Reminders



District Director Ballots Due October 31

Ballots listing nominees for AASB District 5 and 7 Directors have been mailed to district members.

- **District 5** candidates are **David Bobo** (Shelby County); **Derek Henderson** (Alabaster); and **Sonja Smith** (Birmingham).
- **District 7** candidates are **Verlander Jones** (Hale County); **Marvin Lucas** (Tuscaloosa); and **Randy Smalley** (Tuscaloosa County).

Board presidents must certify the board voted at a meeting to choose a candidate, and ballots must be received or postmarked to AASB by Oct. 31.



Delegate/Alternate Names Due Oct. 28

Make your voice heard by choosing your delegates and alternates for AASB's annual Delegate Assembly, held Thursday Dec. 1 during the annual AASB Convention in Birmingham.

Delegate/alternate forms have been mailed to all school systems, and school boards must provide AASB with their delegate and alternate names by Friday, Oct. 28, 2022. If you **have not** received your form, please email kheadrick@alabamaschoolboards.org.

Delegate/alternate names may be mailed to P.O. Box 4980, Montgomery, AL 36103-4980 or emailed to kheadrick@alabamaschoolboards.org. You may also [submit the names online](#).



Just Ask Jayne

Citizen Livestreaming Board Meetings

Dear Jayne:

I'm a longtime board member and I've run into a new problem. We livestream our meetings to our YouTube channel but we have a citizen that comes and uses her cellphone to also livestream the meeting to Facebook. I'm not on social media and it makes me uncomfortable. She and her followers sometimes make ugly remarks in the comments and it doesn't seem fair. Can we ask her not to do this?

[View Answer](#)



Board Member Spotlight: David Yarber

Having served on the Muscle Shoals City Council and the Muscle Shoals Utilities Board, Colbert County school board member David Yarber is no stranger to public service. He is motivated by making a positive difference in the lives of children and young people.

Yarber, who has served on the Colbert County Board of Education since 2018, is a senior program/project manager for an engineering firm specializing in nuclear power design and construction.

In his spare time, he enjoys playing golf and attending school functions for his three grandchildren.

Read this month's spotlight to learn more about David!

[Read More](#)



Celebrate American Education Week 2022

Join the National Education Association in celebrating American Education Week Nov. 12-19. This annual observance is an excellent opportunity to celebrate public education and honor individuals who are making a difference in ensuring every student receives a quality education.

[Get Resources/Learn More](#)



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