



**Sept. 13, 2024**



### **SBOE Discusses FY26 ETF Budget Priorities**

The State Board of Education discussed top priorities Thursday for next year's education budget, requesting a \$225 million increase for the Foundation Program and a significant \$52 million increase for struggling readers beyond 3rd grade in the FY26 Education Trust Fund (ETF) budget.

Deputy State Superintendent Brandon Payne detailed a breakdown of the proposed Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE) FY26 ETF budget request of \$6.4 billion, a 7% increase over FY25. This does not include any one-time funds available in the ETF supplemental appropriation, which this year was \$651 million, with \$158.5 million earmarked for K-12 education. State Superintendent of Education Eric Mackey noted the Education Advancement and Technology Fund will have approximately \$1.6 billion available next year.

The requested FY26 Foundation Program will feature additional funding for assistant principals, which Mackey noted both the governor and legislative budget chairmen support.

Mackey said they have committed to decreasing the number of students required for an assistant principal from 300 students to 250 students, and to include elementary schools. He cautioned this number may look more like 275 students in this FY26 budget, with the goal to get down to 250 within the next of years. The requested Foundation Program increases also include fully funding transportation, which the Legislature has historically funded at around 81%, and a significant increase of \$26 million for special education teacher incentive stipends.

[Read Full Story](#)

**NEW LOCATION!**  
Montgomery, Ala.

2024 Annual Convention  
& Delegate Assembly

# POLISHING *Potential*

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

ALABAMA  
ASSOCIATION OF  
SCHOOL BOARDS  
CELEBRATING  
75  
1949-2024

[AlabamaSchoolBoards.org/AASBConvention](https://AlabamaSchoolBoards.org/AASBConvention)

## AASB Convention to be held in Montgomery; Registration Opens Sept. 18

Registration opens at 8 a.m. Wednesday, Sept. 18 for the annual AASB Convention & Delegate Assembly, which will be held **Dec. 5-7 at the Montgomery Renaissance Hotel & Spa.**

You don't want to miss this year's outstanding speaker lineup, including award-winning author, motivational speaker and artist, **Sam Glenn**, with a motivating keynote, "Attitude is Everything," and **V. Ginny Burton**, who 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." Earn up to 8 training hours | Cost \$299

### 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. Earn 4 training hours | Cost: \$109

### How to Register for Convention/Reserve Hotel Room

**ON OR AFTER** Wednesday, Sept. 18, visit [AlabamaSchoolBoards.org/AASBConvention](https://AlabamaSchoolBoards.org/AASBConvention) for complete event information and instructions on registration. Convention registration is \$299. CONTACT AASB OR BOARD SECRETARY TO REGISTER

**HOTEL:** **You must first register for Convention before booking a room** in AASB's block at the Renaissance Montgomery Hotel & Spa. The group code and other details

on booking a room will be provided in your Convention registration confirmation email.

**NOTE:** Rooms will book quickly; however we will maintain a waiting list once the hotel sells out. Most people on the waiting list are ultimately able to get into the hotel as registration cancellations occur closer to the event date.



## Convention: Diamond Legacy Reception Friday, Dec. 6 | 5:30 p.m.

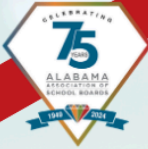
**MARK YOUR CALENDAR:** Join us immediately after Friday's closing session for the Diamond Legacy Reception, commemorating 75 years of unwavering dedication to Alabama's students and schools. This spectacular evening is the culminating celebration of our diamond anniversary and the enduring impact of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

Experience a night of reflection, connection, and inspiration:

- **WEAR** black & white, and bring your boogie shoes
- **DANCE** to the entertaining tunes of dueling pianos
- **ENJOY** delicious refreshments and celebratory toasts
- **STRIKE A POSE** on the 360-photo booth
- **MINGLE** with fellow education advocates and leaders
- **WIN** exciting giveaways from our Diamond reception sponsors


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**Grow Your Leadership for Positive Climate & Culture  
at AASB's Fall Conference**




2024 Fall Conference


# Leadership for Creating Positive Climate & Culture




Kristin Krings




Dr. David Arencibia



Shonda Houston-Dotie



Cindy Deck



Dr. Matthew Mitchell

It's not too late to reserve your spot for AASB's Fall Academy Core Conference, Leadership for Creating Positive Climate & Culture, which will be held **Sunday, Oct. 6 and Monday, Oct. 7** at the Renaissance Montgomery Hotel & Spa. Hear from expert speakers who will share strategies for developing high-quality learning environments that foster educational excellence. Cost: \$209 | 6 training hours | **CONTACT AASB OR BOARD SECRETARY TO REGISTER**

### Post Conference Session: Accountability Data Boot Camp for School Board Members

Extend your learning further and unlock the power of educational data in the Fall Post-Conference workshop, "Accountability Data Boot Camp for School Board Members." This session will guide attendees through understanding and navigating State Report Cards and key student achievement data on the ALSDE's website. Gain the skills to access, interpret, and compare key achievement metrics to enhance informed decision making in their school systems. Cost: \$109 | 2 training hours | **CONTACT AASB OR BOARD SECRETARY TO REGISTER**



### You're Invited: Come Brunch with AASB!

Start your Fall Conference experience early with a casual brunch and open house at the AASB office **Sunday, Oct. 6 from 12:30 to 2 p.m.** Enjoy good food and great company before the conference proceedings begin. We look forward to welcoming you!

[Learn More](#)

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## Place Certified Poverty Coaches in Your Schools



AASB is excited to host nationally known poverty expert Donna Beegle for two intensive training programs at our office in Montgomery **Sept. 24 - 27**. These one-of-a-kind training experiences are designed to help community and thought leaders as well as public-school advocates rethink their approaches to improving outcomes for those in poverty.

### Open to All School System Staff

Beegle's Immersion & Coaching Institutes will prepare school system staff to serve as on-site poverty experts, providing leadership to break barriers and develop system-wide approaches to help students and families move out and stay out of poverty. This training is designed for administrators, guidance counselors, CNP and federal programs staff or any school employee with an interest in breaking the barriers poverty creates in education.

#### **Poverty Immersion Institute | Sept. 24 & 25 | AASB Office**

Hands on two-day poverty institute for educators, health, justice, social service professionals, and community members who want to better understand poverty and to gain tools for making a difference. **\$125 | 6 School Board Academy training hours**

#### **Poverty Coaching Institute\* | Sept. 26 & 27 | AASB Office**

Train school system staff to become certified poverty coaches, conducting workshops for breaking poverty barriers and improving communication and relationships. Poverty coaches also are trained to conduct Poverty Competency Assessments and assist their schools in developing and implementing customized action plans with measurable results. **\$225 | Training hours will not be awarded for this session.**

***\*NOTE: Completion of Poverty Immersion Institute is required to attend Poverty Coaching Institute.***

CONTACT BOARD SECRETARY OR AASB TO REGISTER

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## Last Chance to Register for Fall District Meetings



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

This year's AASB Fall District Meetings 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.

Registration cost is \$39 which includes dinner. All meeting times are 6 to 8:30 p.m. (dinner buffet service begins at 5:45 p.m.), and attendees will earn 1.5 hours in the School Board Member Academy.

**KUDOS:** Boards that have earned the 2023-2024 Team Training Achievement Award will be recognized during the District Meetings. This award recognizes school boards that have had 60 percent or more of their members attend at least three AASB conferences in an academy year and, in that same year, have had all members of their boards meet state-mandated training requirements.

### Remaining District Meeting Dates & Locations

**DISTRICT 1: Tuesday, Sept. 17 | Saraland Early Education Center (Saraland)**

**DISTRICT 3: Thursday, Sept. 19 | Hoppergrass Restaurant (Ozark)**

CONTACT BOARD SECRETARY OR AASB TO REGISTER

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## Protective Domain Name Service Available at No-cost to K-12 Schools

The White House Office of the National Cyber Director (ONCD) has launched an initiative to help K-12 school and district administrators understand the resources available to help them [combat emerging cyber threats](#).

ONCD has identified protective domain name service (PDNS) as a common solution that all schools and districts should utilize.

PDNS helps prevent ransomware and other cyber attacks by preventing computer systems from connecting to harmful websites and other dangerous areas of the internet without the user having to take any action, stopping attacks before they happen.

One provider is the federal government-funded Multi-State Information Sharing and Analysis Center (MS-ISAC), which offers PDNS to schools for no-cost.

[Learn More](#)

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## Nominate Outstanding Leaders for AASB's A-Team Advocacy Award

Nominations are open for AASB's A-Team Advocacy Award, a recognition program launched last year to celebrate extraordinary advocacy efforts of school board members.

You may self-nominate or nominate a peer who has been influential in influencing policy and building relationships with elected officials. The **deadline to submit nominations is Sept. 30.**

For details, [contact AASB Governmental Relations Coordinator Tracey Meyer via email](#) or at 334-277-9700.

View award criteria [HERE](#). Read about last year's A-Team Award recipients [HERE](#).

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## Submissions Rolling in for AASB's 75th Anniversary Student Art Contest

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.

We can't wait to see the incredible talent and creativity of Alabama's students as they help us celebrate this milestone anniversary!

[Learn More](#)



### **Whole Board Training: Time Running Out for Early Bird Promotions!**

AASB's exemplary training team is prepared to help you improve your skills via a [wide array of interactive courses](#) created to meet your board's needs and fulfill the state-mandated two-hour whole board training requirement.

And it pays to book early! Check out the following exciting promotions:

#### **TRAINING DISCOUNT**

- **10% discount** on Whole Board Training fee for boards who schedule and complete their AASB-led Whole Board Training **by Sept. 30, 2024**.

#### **GIFT CARD DRAWING FOR BOARD SECRETARIES**

- Schedule and complete your AASB-led training by Sept. 30, and your board secretary will be entered to win a drawing for one of three \$50 gift cards!

For more information, contact AASB Leadership Development Coordinator **Candi Longnecker** at [clongnecker@AlabamaSchoolBoards.org](mailto:clongnecker@AlabamaSchoolBoards.org), or call 800-562-0601.

[Request Your Training Now](#)



## '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](mailto:membership@AlabamaSchoolBoards.org).



## REMINDER: Raising County Board Compensation

Is your county school board considering a member compensation raise? Boards can only act to raise their compensation at the annual meeting which must be held each November.

Board members can receive compensation of up to \$900 a month unless a higher figure is set by a local act.

View AASB's [Board Compensation FAQs](#) to learn more.

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## Deadline for Convention Clinic Proposals & Student Entertainment Applications Extended to Sept. 16



## Clinic Proposals

Do you have a governance best practice or innovative program you'd like to share with peers? [Submit a proposal to present a breakout clinic session](#) during AASB's Annual Convention at the Renaissance Montgomery Hotel Dec. 5-7.

Topics may cover a variety of areas, including effective board leadership and governance practices, navigating legal issues, technology that engages students, programs proven to boost achievement and more. The deadline to submit a proposal has been extended to **Monday, Sept. 16**



## Student Entertainment Applications

Showcase your school system's talented students by [submitting a student entertainment application](#) for AASB's Annual Convention at the Renaissance Montgomery Hotel Dec. 5-7. We're accepting submissions from vocal, instrumental, performing arts and JROTC groups!

Selected finalists will be featured in a social media contest this fall, giving schools and communities a chance to vote for their favorite group. One group also will be selected by AASB. The deadline to apply has been extended to **Monday, Sept. 16**.



## COSSBA Events

The Consortium of State School Boards Associations (COSSBA) events are open to all AASB members. Up to three training hours may be earned annually by attending COSSBA's conferences. Be sure to save the date and/or register for these upcoming events:

**WEBINAR: Unified Board Alliance**  
[Meeting the Academic Needs of Your Homeless Students](#)

Wednesday, Oct. 16 | 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. CST

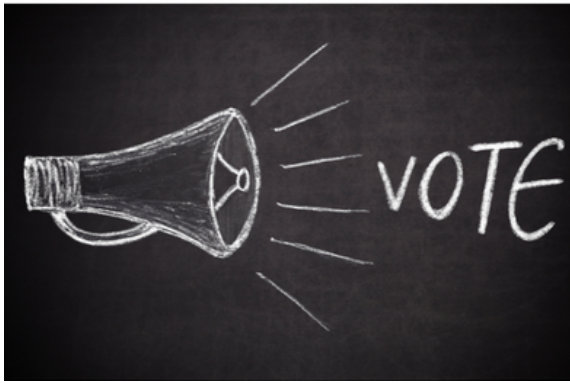
**SAVE THESE DATES!**

[2025 National Conference](#)

March 21-23, 2025 | Atlanta, GA

[2025 Federal Advocacy Conference](#)

Sept. 7-9, 2025 | Washington, D.C.



## District Director Elections

Congratulations to **District 3 Director Melanie Hill**, **District 5 Director Derek Henderson**, **District 7 Director Randy Smalley** and **District 9 Director Alice Lessmann**, who ran unopposed for second terms in the 2024 elections for AASB's Board of Directors.

Ballots will be mailed soon listing the following director nominees for District 1:

- **Ann Peach**, incumbent (Brewton)
- **Darryl Perryman** (Clarke County)
- **Jim Davis** (Thomasville)

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

[Learn More](#)

**BOARD MEMBER** *Spotlight*

**Meet Jan Johnson**  
Pike Road City Board of Education

**Q:** How do you feel about joining the board?  
**A:** — “ —  
I am incredibly excited to serve on our school board. What excites me the most is the opportunity to leave a lasting mark and legacy by influencing positive change and growth within our school system.

” —

ALABAMA ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL BOARDS

## Board Member Spotlight: Jan Johnson

**Jan Johnson**, one of the newest faces on Pike Road's school board, is a tech whiz with a heart for service. With her Air Force experience and tech savvy background, she is a passionate champion for STEM learning and equitable access to educational resources for all students. Whether in "MOMager" mode, cheering at her kids' sporting events or studying astronomy as a hobby, Jan is all about stepping out of her comfort zone to help create a bright future for the students of Pike Road Schools.

[Read More](#)



# Just Ask Jayne

## Passing Vote: Majority of the Board or Majority of Board Members Present?

Dear Jayne:

We are a seven-member county board. Last week, we had a special called meeting and only four members were able to attend. A question arose about whether a 3-1 vote passed. Some people said it passed and some said it didn't. I thought our votes didn't have to be unanimous. Did it pass?

[View Answer](#)

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