



# FOR YOUR *information*

A MONTHLY UPDATE ON  
STATE BOARD PROCEEDINGS,  
ASSOCIATION NEWS &  
K-12 TOPICS

**September 10, 2021**



## **COVID Issues, Assessment Results and Budget Take Center Stage at SBOE Meeting, Work Session**

Alabama's K-12 schools are expected to see more than 10,000 new COVID-19 cases this week, eclipsing the highest weekly total of roughly 4,000 cases recorded at the height of the pandemic last year, State Superintendent of Education Dr. Eric Mackey said during Thursday's State Board of Education meeting. Mackey told the board the Alabama Department of Public Health is providing \$7 million in federal COVID relief dollars to help ensure adequate staffing of school nurses.

As part of discussion at the board work session, Mackey told the board he believes vaccinations are the only way to overcome the pandemic long term.

"I'm struggling to understand how we have adults in our schools that are still not vaccinated," Mackey said.

Dr. Tonya Chestnut (District 5) asked how the ALSDE can better support school systems when it comes to masking and other related issues. She expressed to Mackey and fellow board members that teachers and schools believe the state's hands-off approach is not helpful.

"There should be some common ground across the state," Chestnut said.

The work session also included robust discussion about Alabama's Comprehensive Assessment Program

(ACAP) test results from spring 2021, which reflect the pandemic's negative impact on learning last year. While reading results did not show as steep a decline as expected, math proficiency dropped significantly.

Other work session news included a discussion of the \$5.5 billion budget request for the FY 23 Foundation Program, which includes several line-item increases totaling \$545 million over current appropriations for FY22.

[Read Full Story](#)



## All Remaining District Meetings Now Virtual

All remaining district meetings have been switched to a virtual format due to high transmission rates of the COVID-19 Delta variant throughout the state. In addition, the meetings will now be free. **PLEASE NOTE:** if you have already registered and paid prior to the meeting being switched to virtual, you will receive a full refund in the coming weeks (no action is required on your part).

If you **have not** already registered for your district meeting, we encourage you to do so, as this year's topic, "*Title IX: The Road to Compliance*," is of vital importance to all school board members. Likewise, if you missed your district meeting, please consider registering for one of the remaining dates.

The U.S. Department of Education adopted new Title IX regulations last year that have significant implications for how public schools handle sexual harassment complaints and grievance procedures. Training on these new rules is critical for every public school system in Alabama and in the nation.

Sarah Young, attorney for the Baldwin County Board of Education, will explain the key responsibilities of school boards as well as system employees under these new rules and regulations. Attendees will earn 1.5 training hours in AASB's School Board Member Academy.

View remaining dates below and registration links. All virtual meeting times are 6 - 8 p.m.

**DISTRICT 8** | Tuesday, Sept. 14 | [REGISTER](#)

**DISTRICT 4** | Thursday, Sept. 16 | [REGISTER](#)

**DISTRICT 7** | Monday, Sept. 20 | [REGISTER](#)

**DISTRICT 6** | Tuesday, Sept. 21 | [REGISTER](#)

**DISTRICT 9** | Tuesday, Sept. 28 | [REGISTER](#)



## Still a Few Spots Remaining for Fall Conference

The climate and culture of a school plays a pivotal role in student achievement. A healthy school climate and culture creates the necessary conditions for effective teaching and learning to occur.

AASB's Fall Academy Core Conference, *Leadership for Creating Positive Climate and Culture*, slated for Oct. 17 & 18 at the Renaissance Montgomery Hotel & Spa, will feature expert speakers who will share strategies for developing high-quality learning environments that foster educational excellence.

Due to COVID-19 health and safety precautions, attendance for AASB's is limited; however, there are still a few spots left. Attendees will earn up to six training hours for this core course in AASB's School Board Member Academy. [REGISTER NOW.](#)

### Post-Conference Session

Extend your learning further and earn an additional two training hours by attending the Post-Conference Workshop: *Best Practices for Reducing Chronic Absenteeism*, Monday, Oct. 18 from noon to 2 p.m. Led by AASB consultant Dr. Camille Wright, this informative session will examine the causes and impact of student absenteeism, provide insight into approaches that have successfully increased attendance and highlight the board's role in addressing this vital issue. Registration required; Lunch is included. [REGISTER NOW.](#)

[Learn More](#)

## Board Member Spotlight: Jannah Bailey

**Jannah Bailey** has served on the Montgomery County Board of Education since 2018, motivated to run for her seat



after she felt inspired by the question, "What are you going to do next?" Jannah chose to address the need for change in leadership in Montgomery schools and make a difference in the lives of Alabama schoolchildren, something she also does in her professional career as the longtime executive director of a children's advocacy center.

Read this month's Board Member Spotlight to learn more about Jannah and her advocacy for youth.

[Read More](#)



# Just Ask Jayne

## Who Pays Medical Expenses for Students Injured at School?

**Dear Jayne:** One of our students fell on the playground and was badly hurt. Are we responsible for paying her medical bills?

[View Answer](#)

## Fall Reminders



## Raising County Board Salaries

Is your county school board considering a salary raise? Boards can only act to raise their compensation at the Annual Meeting which must be held each November. No superintendent recommendation is needed. Board members can receive compensation of up to \$600 a month unless a higher figure is set by a local act. [Learn more.](#)



## '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 [email us.](#)



## Book Whole Board Training this Month & Save 10%

It pays to plan ahead. **Schedule and complete** your AASB-led whole board training **by Sept. 30** and **save 10%** off the regular fee.

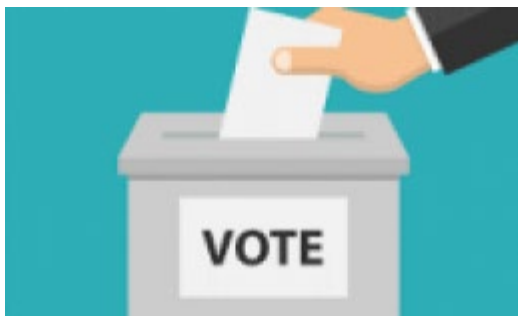
AASB's exemplary training team team is prepared to help you improve your skills via [46 interactive courses](#) created to meet your boards' needs and fulfill the state-mandated, two-hour whole board training requirement.

For more information, contact AASB Executive Assistant for Leadership Development, Stephanie Bell, at [sbell@alabamaschoolboards.org](mailto:sbell@alabamaschoolboards.org) or call 800-562-0601.

[Request Workshop Now](#)

## District Director Elections

Congratulations to **District 2 Director Shelia Dortch** and **District 8 Director Jimmy Dobbs**, who both ran unopposed



in AASB's District Director election process. At the close of this year's AASB Convention, Dortch will begin her second, two-year term, and Dobbs will begin his first full two-year term, having served the balance of the term vacated by Ronnie Owens who now serves as President-Elect.

Ballots listing nominees for AASB District 4 and 6 Directors have been mailed to district members. 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.

[Learn More](#)



## Celebrate National Arts in Education Week Sept. 12 - 18

National Arts in Education Week beginning with the second Sunday in September has been celebrated for more than a decade. This observance brings together those in the field of arts education and communities across the country to tell the story of the transformative power of the arts in education.

There are several ways you can join in this year's campaign:

**Celebrate.** Host a virtual celebration for your community, whether big or small, an existing event, or a new one. [Download and use the shared logo](#) to use for promotion. Be sure to [download the 5 Ways to Partner Packet](#) for other ideas of how to celebrate in your community!

**Advocate.** Work with your elected officials and decision-makers to share the value of the arts in education. Whether a mayor, principal, or U.S. Congressman, check out [sample resolutions](#) and [videos](#), send an op-ed to your local newspaper, and use the [Arts Education Navigator](#)—an online tool with six action steps to crafting a personal

advocacy plan.

**Participate.** Share your story in the social media campaign, [#BecauseOfArtsEd](#), to bring national visibility to the issue of arts education. See below for more information and [download the Social Media How To Guide](#).

[Learn More](#)

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## Student Entertainment Application Deadline Extended

You still have time to showcase your school system's talented students by [submitting a student entertainment application](#) for AASB's Annual Convention at the Hyatt Regency Birmingham - The Wynfrey Hotel Dec. 2-4, 2021. We have extended the deadline to **Sept. 24** for submissions from vocal, instrumental, performing arts, and JROTC groups!

Finalists selected from the pool of submitted applications will be featured in a social media contest this fall, and your schools and communities will be able to vote for their favorite group via AASB's Facebook page.



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## NSBA Magna Award Nominations Deadline Nov. 1

Nominations for the National School Board Association's 2022 Magna Awards are due by **Monday, Nov. 1**. The annual awards program recognizes school systems for innovation and creativity in increasing student achievement.

This year's awards will focus on equity in education. If your school system has a unique program that aims to remove achievement barriers for vulnerable or underserved children, you could be a 2022 award winner; but, you won't know unless you enter!

[Learn More](#)



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