



## FOR YOUR *information*

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

April 10, 2026

### State Board of Education Moves to Overhaul Teacher Certification Rules



Retired teachers could soon have a permanent, lifetime pathway back to Alabama classrooms under a proposed rule change unveiled at Thursday's State Board of Education meeting. The board also made history with its approval of the Digital Literacy and Computer Science Course of Study, with State Superintendent Eric Mackey announcing Code.org has recognized Alabama as the

first and only state to fully integrate Artificial Intelligence into its state computer science standards. Mackey also shared legislative session highlights, budget updates and more during Thursday's State Board meeting and work session.

[Read Full Story](#)



**Register Now: Legislative Session Recap Webinar**

Now that Alabama's 2026 Legislative Session is in the books, join the AASB legislative team **Wednesday, May 6 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.** for a recap of session highs and lows.

This free webinar will feature AASB Executive Director **Sally Smith**, Director of Governmental Relations **Ada Katherine van Wyhe** and Governmental Relations Coordinator **Tracey Meyer** discussing education bills that did and did not pass, sharing helpful information and answering your questions about legislation that will impact your systems.

[Register Now](#)



## Summer Conference: The Countdown is On!

More than 600 school board members and education leaders already have registered for [AASB's 2026 Summer Conference](#) being held **June 19-21** in Gulf Shores, Ala. Summer Conference is always our biggest event of the year, and you don't want to sit this one out! (7 training hours | \$349)



Start strong with the School Safety Summit on **June 19**, a pre-conference session packed with best practices and strategies to help keep your schools safe. (3.5 training hours | \$159)

Then, get ready for two days of high-energy learning and connection, anchored by two exceptional keynotes: **Raven Solomon**, author and strategist, is bringing bold ideas on leadership and building for what's next. **Rennie Curran**, author, leadership coach, and former NFL linebacker, will deliver a powerful message on resilience and showing up when it matters most. In addition, State

Superintendent of Education **Eric Mackey** will share the latest statewide education news and updates. Other conference highlights will include a legislative panel on key education policy issues, an exhibitor showcase and a special welcome reception.

## How Does Poverty Show Up in Your Schools?



Join us **Thursday, April 16** from **noon to 1 p.m.**, for our "Understanding Poverty in Our Classrooms" webinar. **Dr. Tracye Strichik**, executive director at Voice's for Alabama's Children, and her team will break down the factors contributing to poverty across the state of Alabama and how those issues find their way into the classroom. They'll cover the data, key points school board members need to understand and how to take the first step in advocating for students in your school system.

### Register Now, Watch Later

AASB webinars are recorded and available to watch when it's convenient for you! Register now, and even if you're unable to tune in live, you'll receive access to view the recording afterward.

**Cost:** Individual \$55 | Group \$210

**Earn:** 1 training hour

**CONTACT YOUR BOARD SECRETARY OR AASB TO REGISTER NOW!**

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## Board Meeting Minutes: 10 Tips



Join AASB's strategic partner, eBoardsolutions, and Civility, LLC, **Wednesday, April 15, from 11 a.m. to noon** (Central time) for a FREE, skills-focused webinar grounded in parliamentary procedure best practices and *Robert's Rules of Order*.

[Register Now](#)

## Upcoming COSSBA Events



### **Webinar: Recruiting & Retaining Highly Effective Teachers** May 20, 2026, 11 a.m - noon (CDT)

Make plans to sign up for the next installment in COSSBA's Unified Board Alliance Webinar Series. This topic will help you discover how your system can move beyond traditional approaches and develop sustainable systems that not only attract exceptional educators but also empower them to make a lasting impact -- while increasing student achievement.

[Register Now](#)



### **Federal Advocacy Conference** Washington, D.C. Sept. 21-23, 2026

Are you ready to champion public education and make your voice heard at the national level? Join leaders from across the country in the nation's capital to advocate for stronger schools and empowered communities during COSSBA's annual Federal Advocacy Conference. Early bird rate \$695 until July 20, 2026.

[Register Now](#)

## New Member Benefit: Orientation Now Free



*Registration Opens May 12*

Getting new board members off to a strong start just got even easier — and more affordable. AASB is pleased to announce that our two-part school board member

orientation is now **free of charge** for members, a new benefit reflecting our commitment to supporting board members from day one of their service.

Registration opens Tuesday, May 12 for the next offering of AASB's orientation, scheduled for **July 17 & 18** at our office in Montgomery. This training provides a wealth of information to help new board members understand their roles, responsibilities, and the relationships that drive effective governance.

### **Roles & Responsibilities | Friday, July 17 | 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.**

Part I of AASB's school board member orientation covers the role of the board and the superintendent, the Open Meetings Act, the ethics law, and much more.

### **Effective Boards & Relationships | Saturday, July 18 | 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.**

Part II takes an in-depth look at effective school board leadership, stakeholder engagement, working with your superintendent and board attorney, and the art of advocacy.

### **DID YOU KNOW?**

- **Incoming Board Members:** Even if they have not yet taken office, incoming board members already are eligible to participate in board member training.

***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.***



## **Does Losing Supplemental Pay Count as a Pay Cut?**

**Q** **Dear AASB:** The superintendent is planning to do an involuntary transfer of a tenured teacher currently at the high school. The teacher is also the faculty sponsor of the math club and receives extra pay for this. However, after the teacher's transfer to the other school, he will not be needed to continue serving as the math club sponsor and will no longer be receiving the supplemental pay for those extra duties. Would this be considered a transfer with a "reduction in pay"?

**A** No, only the employee's main job compensation is taken into account when considering "loss of pay" in a transfer. Supplements are not considered for purposes of reduction in pay under the Students First Act. As such, assuming the employee's main compensation is remaining the

same, the teacher here would only be entitled to a minimum due process conference before the school board.

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## Leadership Lens: Who's Not in the Room?



It's human nature to gravitate toward people who think like we do. But when board leaders stay inside their echo chambers, the people most affected by their decisions often never have a voice. AASB Director of Leadership Development Janice Stockman reflects on what we miss when we fail to ask: "Who's not in the room?"

[Read More](#)

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## Board Member Spotlight: Cara Sexton Welsh

A graphic for a board member spotlight. At the top, the words 'BOARD MEMBER' are in large, bold, white letters on a black background, flanked by two spotlights. Below this, the word 'Spotlight' is written in a yellow, cursive font. The main title 'Meet Cara Sexton Welsh' is in bold black text, with 'Madison City Board of Education' in a smaller black box below it. To the right is a portrait of Cara Sexton Welsh, a woman with short blonde hair wearing a light blue button-down shirt. To the left of the portrait is a Q&amp;A section. The question 'Q: What is one piece of advice you would share with an incoming board member?' is followed by the answer 'A: — “ ————— This is a marathon... not a sprint, not a 5K, not a 10K. Patience is a virtue. ————— ” —'. At the bottom left of the graphic is the Madison City Schools logo, and at the bottom right is the Alabama Association of School Boards logo.

**Cara Sexton Welsh** says a calling from a higher power led her to the Madison City school board. Find out what she's learned in her first year — and why she says this role is "a marathon, not a sprint."

[Read More](#)

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## Congrats to Third-Quarter Whole Board Training Gift Card Winners!



Congratulations to our third-quarter gift card winners: Marycile Echols (Macon County), Denise C. Murray (Auburn) and Jessica Pettway (Daleville). These board secretaries each won \$50 gift cards for AASB's Whole Board Training early bird promotion for January - March!

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## Reminder: Ethics Forms Due April 30



Don't forget **April 30, 2026**, is the deadline for school board members and superintendents to file annual financial disclosure forms with the state Ethics Commission for 2025. The forms are available on the State of Alabama [Ethics Commission's website](#).

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## AASB Job Board

**SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH**

APPLY BY:  
May 1

APPLY: [bit.ly/LCS-Supt](https://bit.ly/LCS-Supt)

### Linden City Schools Superintendent

The Linden 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 deadline to apply is **May 1, 2026**.  
[Apply/Learn More.](#)

## Additional Vacancies

- [Superintendent of Baldwin County Schools](#)

- [CSFO of Chilton County Schools](#)
- [Superintendent of Pike Road City Schools](#)
- [Superintendent of Opp City Schools](#)
- [CSFO of Muscle Shoals City Schools](#)



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