



June 13, 2025



## **SBOE Approves Paid Parental Leave Rules, Improvements Announced in Reading Scores, CCR and Grad Rates**

The Alabama State Board of Education approved rules Thursday for the new Paid Parental Leave law while State Superintendent Eric Mackey announced significant educational improvements. Third-grade reading proficiency climbed to 88.4%, and the state's graduation rate rebounded to pre-pandemic levels at 91%. College and Career Readiness rates jumped 3.7% to reach 87.8% statewide.

Board members reviewed implementation plans for several newly enacted laws, including the RAISE Act's student-weighted funding formula and the FOCUS Act banning cell phones in classrooms. The board also received updates on funding changes to the CHOOSE Act's voucher program and measures reducing teacher paperwork. Members heard presentations on America 250 initiatives and examined the revised Digital Literacy curriculum, which now incorporates artificial intelligence and cybersecurity instruction.

[Read Full Story](#)

---

## **Check Out PARCA Analysis of 2024 CCR, Graduation Rates**

The Public Affairs Research Council of Alabama (PARCA) has released an



## Public Affairs Research Council of Alabama®

analysis of Alabama's newly released College and Career Readiness (CCR) and graduation rates for 2024. PARCA's analysis includes a detailed look at the various ways to demonstrate college and career readiness - career technical education, dual enrollment, ACT, and WorkKeys certifications. An interactive visualization tool allows users to explore results for their local school system or school.

[Learn More](#)

# 2025 All-State School Board Award

*Nominations Due  
Aug. 15, 2025*



## Recognize Excellence in School Board Leadership!

Do you know a school board member whose dedication and vision have made an indelible mark? Nominations are now open for AASB's prestigious 2025 All-State School Board Member Award – celebrating those who exemplify outstanding boardmanship and commitment to educational excellence. This award is AASB's highest honor for school board members.

### Why Nominate?

- Honor exceptional leadership that makes a difference for Alabama students
- Recognize innovative approaches to educational governance
- Celebrate dedication to public service in your community

### Key Information

- **Nomination Deadline:** August 15, 2025
- **Required:** Endorsement by majority vote of the nominee's local school board

Complete [eligibility and selection guidelines](#) will be provided to all school board presidents and superintendents.

[View Nomination Form](#)



## Summer Conference: One Week Countdown

Get ready to turn up the volume at AASB's Summer Conference next week at the Lodge at Gulf State Park! "Rock Your Leadership" isn't just our theme—it's your invitation to an electrifying weekend of inspiration, connection and growth alongside over 600 fellow school board leaders from across Alabama.

With powerhouse speakers and invaluable sessions lined up, this is your backstage pass to earn up to 7 training hours while amplifying your leadership impact!

[View Schedule-at-a-Glance](#)



## Policy Pipeline is Coming: Subscribe Starting July 7

Mark your calendars! If your school board isn't already receiving AASB's Policy Pipeline, new subscriptions open **Monday, July 7, 2025**.

AASB's [Policy Pipeline](#) is an annual publication that helps local boards of education keep their policy manuals up

to date with a minimal investment of time and money. The subscription-based service provides expert insight as well as relevant draft policies on legal and administrative developments.

The 2025-2026 edition of the Policy Pipeline will be published in mid-July, and the annual subscribers-only maintenance webinar will be held Monday, July 21 at 10 a.m. Participants can read the issue and ask any questions during this convenient webinar.

Stay tuned for more information.



## **Missed AASB's Legislative Recap? Watch the Recording!**

Nearly 200 members registered for today's webinar recapping the highs and lows of Alabama's 2025 Legislative Session. If you missed registering for this informative webinar, you can still request access to the recording.

Tune in to hear AASB's Governmental Relations team as they:

- Review which education bills passed and failed
- Provide insider perspective from the session's final days
- Share their firsthand experience advocating for public education
- Discuss their direct involvement in shaping key legislation
- Answer your questions about how these changes affect your school system

The Legislative Session Recap is AASB's most popular webinar every year. This valuable resource is a free AASB member benefit. No training hours will be awarded.

**Contact AASB Governmental Relations Coordinator Tracey Meyer** to request access to the recording.

---



## **School Board Member Orientation: Beneficial for New AND Experienced Board Members**

## Refresh Your Governance Knowledge & Build Your Leadership Team

You still have time to register for AASB's comprehensive two-part orientation on July 11 and 12 at our Montgomery office. While designed to meet requirements for new board members, this program offers **significant value for experienced board members seeking to refresh their knowledge and stay current with evolving governance best practices.**

### Why Experienced Board Members Should Attend

- **Reinforce your understanding** of critical governance principles
- **Stay updated** on recent changes to Open Meetings Act requirements and ethics law compliance
- **Demonstrate your commitment** to continuous improvement and board excellence
- **Set a positive example** for newer colleagues while strengthening your own knowledge

### Superintendents: Attend With Your New Board Members!

Building a cohesive leadership team is essential for school system success. When superintendents attend orientation alongside their newest board members, it creates a shared understanding of roles and responsibilities, stronger working relationships and common language and expectations around governance.

### Program Details

#### **DAY 1: Roles & Responsibilities | Friday, July 11 | 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. | \$99**

Part I focuses on foundational governance concepts including board and superintendent responsibilities, Open Meetings Act requirements, ethics law compliance, and additional information for effective board service. (8 training hours)

#### **DAY 2: Effective Boards & Relationships - Sat., July 12 | 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. | \$79**

Part II covers elements of exemplary school board leadership, community engagement strategies, best practices for working with your superintendent and school board attorney, and tips to advocate for your school system's priorities. (6 training hours)

### Important Notes:

- **Incoming Board Members:** Even if they have not yet taken office, incoming board members may participate in training at board expense. (See AG Opinion)
- **Superintendent Discount:** Superintendents who attend with their new board members receive a \$20 registration discount.

*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.*

[Contact Your Board Secretary or AASB to Register](#)

---

## COSSBA Announces Legendary Journalist Bob Woodward as Federal Advocacy Conference Keynote Speaker





Association's (COSSBA) Federal Advocacy Conference will be held **Sept. 7-9, 2025**, in Washington, D.C., featuring legendary investigative journalist **Bob Woodward** as the keynote speaker.

Bob Woodward, associate editor for The Washington Post and author of 23 bestselling books, first gained international attention when he and Carl Bernstein uncovered the Watergate scandal in 1973. Known for his factual, non-partisan approach, Woodward has spent decades illuminating the inner workings of Washington through meticulous reporting that has earned him nearly every American journalism award, including two Pulitzers.

With the wave of new education executive orders and federal policies impacting public education nationwide, school board voices are needed now more than ever. Don't let decisions affecting your school system be made without your input. Register now to join education leaders from across the nation to engage with policymakers and advocate for students.

### Registration Details

- **Early Bird Rate:** \$675.00 before July 18, 2025
- **After July 18, 2025:** \$725.00

### Hotel Reservations: Act Now, Rooms Will Go Quickly!

The group room rate at the Grand Hyatt Washington is \$349.00 per night, plus tax. Availability is limited, and rooms will be offered on a first-come, first-served basis until the block is full.

[Learn More/Register for Conference](#)

[Reserve Your Hotel Room](#)



ALABAMA  
ASSOCIATION OF  
SCHOOL BOARDS



Alabama Association of School Boards  
43 South Jackson Street  
Montgomery, AL 36104  
800-562-0601