

Joint Conference to Focus on New School Requirements



Join ASBA and the Arkansas Association of Educational Administrators (AAEA) for the 11th annual Joint Leadership Conference, to be held on May 5 at the DoubleTree Hotel in Little Rock.

Registration begins at 8:00 am, and the conference runs

from 9:00 am to 3:30 pm. Lunch will be provided.

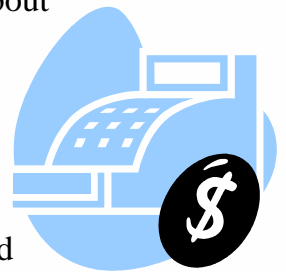
This year's seminar will highlight important changes in school law, many of which will affect schools as early as July 1.

- Arkansas Commissioner of Education Dr. Ken James will discuss ADE's pending reorganization and expectations for schools in light of recent changes to school law,
- Cabot Supt. Dr. Frank Holman will discuss new curriculum requirements for schools,
- ADE's Janinne Riggs will discuss schools' obligations under Act 35 and NCLB,
- ASBA Staff Attorney Kristen Gould will discuss new ethics guidelines for school board members and other school governance issues,
- ADE Facilities Director Dave Floyd and North Little Rock Supt. Tom Kimbrell will share insights about the new era of school facilities, and
- Fort Smith Supt. Benny Gooden and Springdale CFO Dr. Greg Murry will discuss current issues regarding school funding.

It's time to be planning for the 2005-2006 school year, and the Team Leadership Conference is a great way to start. The event is open to school board members and school administrators. Register by completing the form on the ASBA website, www.arsba.org, or by calling 1-800-482-1212.

Texas-Arkansas Purchasing System Vendor Fair

Managers of the Texas-Arkansas Purchasing System (TAPS) will hold a vendor fair and reception on May 5. Board members and district staff are invited to meet vendors and to learn more about how they can purchase equipment and supplies through TAPS, a free, cooperative purchasing system endorsed by ASBA.



The vendor fair will be held at the DoubleTree Hotel, following the ASBA/AAEA Joint Leadership Conference. Nearly 100 vendors are available through TAPS, and more than 30 of them will be present to help you realize significant savings when purchasing school-related items – ranging from office supplies and software, to computers and furniture, to air conditioning systems and portable buildings.

The vendor fair is open to everyone, 3:30 to 6:00 pm in the Palisades-Riverside West Room. If you wish to remain for the reception and dinner, which will be held between 6:00 – 7:30 pm in the Grand Ballroom, please RSVP to Kim Thompson at 1-866-839-8477, or download the TAPS Vendor Fair Registration Form from the ASBA website, www.arsba.org.

**Register for the
Leadership Conference
and Vendor Fair! May 5th**

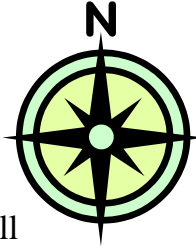
www.arsba.org
1-800-482-1212

(Over...)

Superintendent Orientation

After the Joint Leadership Conference on May 5, the Arkansas Leadership Academy (ALA) will conduct a brief orientation session for superintendents who have, or will have, principals attending the ALA Master Principals Institute.

The ALA session will begin *immediately* after the Joint Conference adjourns.



The Legislature Adjourns – New Work Begins



After more than three months of deliberation, negotiation, and sometimes exasperation, the 85th General Assembly recessed on April 13. The session is expected to adjourn on May 13. As with every legislative session, this gathering was a mixed bag for education.

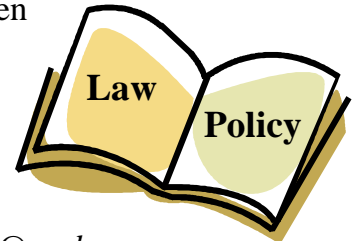
Hundreds of education-related bills were considered by legislators. ASBA supported successful new laws to reorganize the Department of Education (ADE) to better serve the state's education needs, provide more state support for teacher health insurance benefits, and initiate a state education facilities program to improve school facilities throughout the state.

ASBA opposed proposals to weaken Arkansas' teacher professional development standards, reduce funding for schools, and arbitrarily consolidate public schools.

Now that the legislative session is over, districts and schools must begin working to implement new requirements imposed by the legislature. To help, the May issue of the *ASBA Reporter* will highlight important changes in school law that will affect schools.

ASBA Policy Manual Updates

ASBA staff are updating the ASBA Model Policy Manual to reflect changes in school law brought about by the recent legislative session. New and updated policies will be sent via e-mail to subscriber districts as they become available. The entire policy manual will be reproduced when the updates are complete. For more information about subscribing to the policy service, contact Ron Harder at rharder@arsba.org, or Paulette Walker at 1-800-482-1212.



NSBA Southern Region Conference

Make plans now to attend the NSBA Southern Region Conference, to be held July 24-27 in historic Charleston, South Carolina. More information is available by following the links at www.arsba.org.

In Memoriam

ASBA mourns the passing of David W. Gates, of Rogers, as a dedicated champion of public education. David faithfully served for many years on the Rogers School Board. He served on the ASBA board in the 1970s, and served as ASBA President in 1976.



Also, ASBA remembers James R "Jim" Little. Jim was a tireless advocate for public education and a well-respected, lifetime resident of Heber Springs. He served on the Heber Springs School Board for many years, and on the ASBA Board of Directors. He was ASBA President in 1977.