

ASBA-AAEA Joint Leadership Conference Scheduled for May

The 2006 ASBA-AAEA Joint Leadership Conference is scheduled for May 9, 2006, at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Little Rock.



Each spring ASBA and the Arkansas Association of Educational Administrators (AAEA) host a conference for board members and school administrators. The ASBA-AAEA Joint Conference covers a

variety of issues, including: school laws, public education policy, school administration, school funding, legislative issues and actions, and other relevant topics.

Board member attendees receive up to six hours of ASBA Boardmanship credit and state-required continuing training credit. Superintendents and other school administrators can receive professional development credit from the Arkansas Department of Education.

Registration flyers will soon be sent to board members and superintendents. The conference cost is \$100 per person. The agenda and registration information are available at www.arsba.org.

Embassy Suites is offering a special lodging rate of \$119 per night. Make your lodging reservations by April 22. Call the hotel at (800) 362-2779 and request the conference rate.

School Funding Update

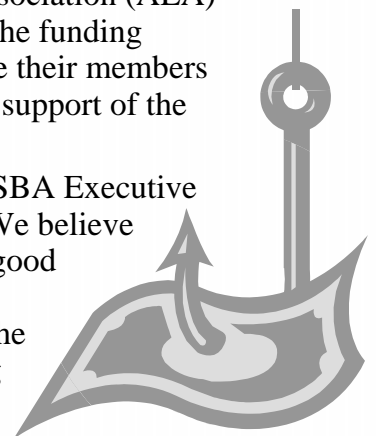
Legislators are continuing to discuss and trying to reach consensus on increasing school funding in response to the Supreme Court's most recent mandate. The Senate and House Education Committees have recommended a school foundation funding model that will provide schools with a \$90 per pupil increase for 2005-2006, and a \$118 per pupil increase in 2006-2007.

This proposal is expected to be brought before the General Assembly in the upcoming Special Legislative Session (expected to be called by the governor).

ASBA, the Arkansas Association of Education Administrators (AAEA) and the Arkansas Education Association (AEA) have jointly supported the funding proposal, and encourage their members to contact legislators in support of the funding measures.

As summarized by ASBA Executive Director Dan Farley, "We believe the funding model is a good faith effort toward achieving the goals of the court, and for providing the best possible educational opportunities for all Arkansas students."

Please contact your elected officials to voice your support for increased school funding.



Attention NSBA Annual National Conference Attendees

To receive state-approved in-service credit through ASBA for attending NSBA workshops in Chicago, you must complete and return to ASBA a **School Board Training Documentation Form** identifying the workshops you attended.

Forms have been mailed to conference registrants. The form and more information are available on the ASBA website, www.arsba.org.

NSBA Southern Region Conference this summer

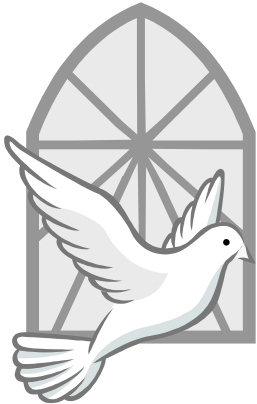
The 2006 NSBA Southern Region Conference, hosted by the Alabama Association of School Boards (AASB) is set for July 23-26 at the Sandestin Resort and Conference Center in Sandestin, FL.



The AASB is now accepting registrations through its conference website. If you plan to attend the conference, you'll want to register soon. Accommodations – ranging from hotel rooms to beachside condos – are quickly filling with vacationers, but space is still available at discounted conference rates.

Lodging and conference registration information is available by following the Southern Region Conference link on the ASBA website, www.arsba.org.

In Memoriam



ASBA mourns the death of Kenneth Hammons, a Magnet Cove School Board member.

Hammons served the Magnet Cove community his entire life. He was a teacher, coach, and administrator in the local schools for 39 years; he was an active volunteer in his church and community, and served on several community boards.

His commitment to area students didn't end at retirement. He was elected to the Magnet Cove School Board where he continued his high calling to education.

Share Your Best Practices!

A couple of months ago, ASBA sent a request to all school board members and superintendents in the state looking for **Best Practices** in education. We have received some great examples, but we know that there are many more inspirational ideas out there to share.

You are invited to share your district's best practices, so that we can publish them on our web site for all school districts to see and possibly use in their own districts. Please email your best practices to heather@arsba.org or fax to the ASBA office at 501-375-2454 no later than April 14.

We are looking for practices that can be categorized in a variety of ways such as accountability, administrative reorganization, alternative education, out of school programs, facilities, professional development, and school policies, among others. For a complete list of categories and some examples of best practices, please go to our website, www.arsba.org, and click on the "Best Practices in Education" link.

Best practices information can benefit all school board members and educators in the state. Please take a moment to reflect, talk with others in your school district, and share information on one, two, or as many categories that you would like. Tell us to which category or categories you think your practice relates. Be sure to include a contact name and phone number for each best practice.

We want to share your success stories. It's time to brag on your school district!

Thank you for helping with this **Best Practices** project.