

**aasbo**

Alabama Association of  
School Business Officials

**2021 Robert L. Morton Award Winner**  
**Karen O'Bannon, Madison County Board of Education**



**Karen O'Bannon**, Chief School Financial Officer for the Madison County Board of Education, has been named the recipient of the 2021 Robert L. Morton Award by the Alabama Association of School Business Officials (AASBO). The award named after the late Robert L. Morton, former assistant superintendent of administration and finance for the Alabama State Department of Education, is designed to recognize outstanding chief school financial officers in Alabama.

Karen O'Bannon has been employed with the Madison County Board of Education since 2004 as the Chief School Finance Officer. Prior to her employment with the Board, she worked with the State of Alabama Department of Examiners of Public Accounts for 19 years as an auditor of governmental entities, including school districts across the State. She is a Certified Public Accountant and a graduate with honors of Jacksonville State University with a B.S. Degree in Accounting.

As CSFO for one of the state's larger school districts, Karen is responsible for overseeing all financial operations of the district's \$220 million budget as well as supervising all functions of the business office that include purchasing/procurement, payroll/insurance, capital projects, and the Child Nutrition Program. Karen serves as an instructor in the AASBO certificate program and has spoken to various groups and organizations on the topic of school finance. She is a graduate of Leadership Huntsville/Madison County, Class 22, and currently serves on the AASBO Board of Directors for District 9.

She is married to Randy O'Bannon and they have one son, Clark (age 17). In her leisure time, Karen focuses on family enjoying the outdoors; walking, hiking, and pretending to fish to spend time with her husband and son. They are also members of Willowbrook Baptist Church in Huntsville.

AASBO seeks to recognize, through this award, the dedication that individuals bring to their communities, their profession, and their school district in everyday life, identifying school business officials devoted to going above and beyond to do their job and serve their community. Karen O'Bannon is an outstanding selection for this award.