

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER IN-SERVICE ACTIVITIES

The School Board places a high priority on the importance of a planned and continuing program of in-service education for its members. The central purpose of the program is to enhance the quality and effectiveness of public school governance in our community. The School Board shall plan specific in-service activities designed to assist School Board Members in their efforts to improve their skills as members of a policy-making body; to expand their knowledge about trends, issues, and new ideas affecting the educational activities of the local schools; and, to deepen their insights into the nature of leadership in a modern democratic society.

School Board members will participate annually in high-quality professional development activities at the state, local, or national levels on governance, including, but not limited to, personnel policies and practices; the evaluation of personnel; curriculum and instruction; use of data in planning and decision making; and current issues in education.

The School Board regards the following as the kinds of activities and services appropriate for implementing this policy:

1. Participation in School Board conferences, workshops and conventions conducted by the Virginia School Boards Association (VSBA) and the National School Boards Association (NSBA) and similar events sponsored by other recognized providers of continuing education that promote the purpose of this policy.
2. Division-sponsored training sessions for School Board Members.
3. Subscriptions to publications addressed to the concerns of School Board Members.
4. Presentations at state and national education conferences, workshops, or meetings provided, however, that materials which are distributed at such events shall state prominently that they represent the views of the presenter and not the School Board.

The School Board shall budget funds annually to support this program. The School Board shall reimburse individual School Board members for out-of-pocket costs incurred through participation in approved activities. The authority to approve or disapprove reimbursement for School Board member's in-service activities shall be as follows:

1. No prior approval is required for reimbursement of out-of-pocket travel and program expenses for any program or conference sponsored by the VSBA.
2. A Board Member may attend the annual convention of the NSBA (or similar national event sponsored by the NSBA) once in his or her three-year term unless otherwise approved by the School Board.
3. In lieu of attendance at events sponsored by the NSBA as described in subparagraph 2, above, School Board Members may elect to attend a convention, conference, or workshop sponsored by a recognized education provider other than

the NSBA of equivalent expense to the annual convention of the NSBA once in his or her three-year term, or more with the approval of the Chair.

4. The School Board may grant waivers of the provisions of this policy. The School Board shall keep the public informed through the media about the School Board's continuing in-service educational activities.

Adopted: October 24, 1996
Amended: December 6, 2001
Amended: October 7, 2004
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