

School Board

Board Member Development

The School Board desires that its individual members learn, understand, and practice effective governance principles. The Board is responsible for Board member orientation and development. Board members have an equal opportunity on a calendar year basis to attend one State conference (e.g., Annual Conference of IASB, IASA and IASBO) and one national conference (in or out of the State) designed to familiarize members with public school issues, governance, and legislation. This is in addition to any mandatory trainings for Board members. Overnight stay for an out of state conference is permissible, however, only two (2) Board members may stay overnight for the Annual Conference noted above. Board members also have an equal opportunity to attend local dinner and breakfast development meetings sponsored by the Illinois Association of School Boards, as well as local or regional meetings sponsored by the Illinois State Board of Education and the South Cook Intermediate Service Center.

Further, to be eligible for participation in a development activity prior to requiring a financial expenditure, the Board requires a minimal time commitment to Board business prior to a Board member registering for such an activity. Specifically, the requesting Board member must have attended and participated in a least 80% of the prior 12 months of regularly scheduled board meetings or 80% of the prior regularly scheduled board meetings since being elected to the Board of Education, whichever is longer. Absence from a regularly scheduled board meeting due to work, career advancement, illness or hospitalization will not be counted as an absence for purposes of this determination, as long as the Board member has provided reasonable advance notice to the School Board President or Superintendent, prior to the start of the regularly scheduled board meeting.

In addition, if a Board Member's seat is up for election within a year of a requested development activity, that member must have acquired, election materials, completed the election materials and/or submitted the election materials, in accordance with the deadlines established by the State of Illinois Election Code, to ensure the Board Members name will be appearing on the ballot of the next election

The Board President and/or Superintendent shall provide all Board members with information regarding pertinent education materials, publications, and notices of training or development.

Mandatory Board Member Training

Each Board member is responsible for his or her own compliance with the mandatory training laws that are described below:

1. Each Board member elected or appointed to fill a vacancy of at least one year's duration must complete at least four hours of professional development leadership training in education and labor law, financial oversight and accountability, and fiduciary responsibilities within the first year of his or her first term.
2. Each Board member must complete training on the Open Meetings Act no later than 90 days after taking the oath of office for the first time. After completing the training, each Board member must file a copy of the certificate of completion with the Board. Training on the Open Meetings Act is only required once.
3. Each Board member must complete a training program on evaluations under the Performance

Evaluation Reform Act (PERA) before participating in a vote on a tenured teacher’s dismissal using the optional alternative evaluation dismissal process. This dismissal process is available after the District’s PERA implementation date.

The Superintendent or designee shall maintain on the District website a log identifying the complete training and development activities of each Board member, including both mandatory and non-mandatory training.

Professional Development; Adverse Consequences of School Exclusion; Student Behavior

The Board President or Superintendent, or their designees, will make reasonable efforts to provide ongoing professional development to Board members about the adverse consequences of school exclusion and justice-system involvement, effective classroom management strategies, culturally responsive discipline, and developmentally appropriate disciplinary methods that promote positive and healthy school climates, i.e., *Senate Bill 100 training topics*.

Board Self-Evaluation

The Board will conduct periodic self-evaluations with the goal of continuous improvement.

New Board Member Orientation

The orientation process for newly elected or appointed Board members includes:

1. The Board President or Superintendent, or their designees, shall give each new Board member a copy of or online access to the Board Policy Manual, the Board’s regular meeting minutes for the past year, and other helpful information including material describing the District and explaining the Board’s roles and responsibilities.
2. The Board President or designee shall schedule one or more special Board meetings, or schedule time during regular meetings, for Board members to become acquainted and to review Board processes and procedures.
3. The Board President may request a veteran Board member to mentor a new member.
4. All new members are encouraged to attend workshops for new members conducted by the Illinois Association of School Boards.

Candidates

The Superintendent or designee shall invite all current candidates for the office of Board member to attend: (1) Board meetings, except that this invitation shall not extend to any closed meetings, and (2) pre-election workshops for candidates.

LEGAL REF.: 5 ILCS 120/1.05 and 120/2.
105 ILCS 5/10-16a and 5/24-16.5.

CROSS REF.: 2:80 (Board Member Oath and Conduct), 2:125 (Board Member Compensation; Expenses), 2:200 (Types of School Board Meetings)

Adopted: November 1996

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