

Section 1-7.4. Programs and services; programs to enhance quality of effectiveness; funds budgeted annually; appropriate activities and services; new member orientation; reports required; conferences etc. not sponsored by VSBA or COSSBA special requirements; policy effective date. —

A. The School Board commits itself to providing programs and services as stated in the Standards of Quality, but only to the extent that appropriate funding is provided by the state and local governments.

B. 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 of effectiveness of Suffolk Public Schools. 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.

C. Funds shall be budgeted annually to support this program. Individual school board members shall be reimbursed for out-of-pocket costs incurred through participation in approved activities. The School Board shall retain the authority to approve or disapprove the participation of members in planned activities. The public shall be kept informed through the media about the School Board's continuing in-service educational activities.

D. 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 organizations such as the Virginia School Boards Association (VSBA) and the National School Boards Association Consortium of State School Boards Associations (COSSBA); or
2. Division-sponsored training sessions for School Board members; or
3. Subscriptions to publications addressed to the concerns of School Board members.

E. All newly elected members to the School Board are required to attend new member orientation sponsored by the Virginia School Boards Association.

F. For any conference, workshop, or convention attended by a member of the School Board and paid for by budgeted funds of the School Board, the member of the School Board is required to present either a written or oral report to the full School Board at the next regularly scheduled meeting of the School Board as an informational item following the Board members return from the conference, workshop or convention. The purpose of this reporting requirement is to provide other members of the School Board with information received from the conference, workshop, or convention.

F. Any member of the School Board desiring to attend a conference not sponsored by the VSBA or COSSBA are required to do the following:

- (1) Notify all board members as soon as practicable by electronic mail of any training that is being sought to allow other board members to take advantage of the training.

(2) Provide all board members with a copy of the agenda and copies of all materials received at the conference, workshop, or convention.

G. The effective date of this policy is February 12, 2026. (Adopted November 10, 1994)

Legal Authority - Virginia Code §22.1-253.13:5 (D)

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