

### 5:37. Are school board members required to take any kind of training?

Yes. For example, school board members are required to receive training in the following within the first year of their term:

Six hours on fiscal oversight, accountability, and fiduciary responsibilities (§ 2102-a(1)(a); see **25:4**).

General training on the powers, functions and duties of school boards, and the powers and duties of other governing and administrative authorities affecting public education (§ 2102-a(1)(b); see 2102-a(4) for additional information pertaining to the City School District of the City of New York).

The curricula and providers used for such training must be approved by the commissioner of education (§ 2102-a(2)).

Once the training is completed, it does not need to be repeated if a board member is re-elected (§ 2102-a(1)(c); NYS Education Department, *Accounting and Auditing, Board Member Training* (updated Apr. 2016), at: [http://www.p12.nysed.gov/mgtserv/accounting/board\\_train.html](http://www.p12.nysed.gov/mgtserv/accounting/board_train.html)). However, proof of completion must be filed with the district clerk (§ 2102-a(3)). Failure to complete the mandatory training within the time period required by law can subject a board member to removal from the school board (*Appeals of Stepien & Lilly*, 47 Ed Dept Rep 388 (2008); see **6:43-53**). Training expenses incurred are a lawful charge upon the district (§ 2102-a(3)).

Other areas in which school board members must receive training include:

- Child abuse in an educational setting (§ 1132(2); 8 NYCRR § 100.2(hh)(2)(ii); see **65:33**).
- Annual data privacy and security awareness training (8 NYCRR § 121.7; see **13:35**).

Although not required by law, the state comptroller has encouraged annual sexual harassment prevention training for school board members (Office of the NYS Comptroller, Division of Local Government and School Accountability, *Avoca CSD, Sexual Harassment Prevention Training* (Aug. 2023), at: <https://www.osc.ny.gov/files/local-government/audits/2023/pdf/avoca-central-school-district-s9-23-19.pdf>; Labor Law § 201-g(2)(c); see also **83:11**).