

Document Status: Draft Update

BOARD OF EDUCATION

2:120 Board Member Development

The Board of Education 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 to attend State and national meetings designed to familiarize members with public school issues, governance, and legislation.

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 and leadership training in: (1) education and labor law; (2) financial oversight and accountability; (3) fiduciary responsibilities; (4) trauma-informed practices for students and staff; and (5) improving student outcomes, within the first year of his or her first term.
2. Each Board member must complete training on the Open Meetings Act (OMA) 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 OMA 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. [PRESSPlus1](#)

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, shall make reasonable efforts to provide ongoing professional development to Board members about the requirements of 105 ILCS 5/10-22.6 and 105 ILCS 5/10-20.14, adverse consequences of school exclusion and justice-system involvement, effective classroom management strategies, culturally responsive discipline, trauma-responsive learning environments, appropriate and available supportive services for the promotion of student attendance and engagement, and developmentally appropriate disciplinary methods that promote positive and healthy school climates.

Board Self-Evaluation

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

New Board Member Orientation

The Board of Education considers it important that a new member be knowledgeable about school governance and operations, and insofar as possible, prepared to discuss and cast informed votes on matters before the Board from the time that he or she is sworn into office.

All candidates seeking election to the Board will be urged to attend, and be welcomed at, public meetings of the Board. All public information about the school system will be made available to them.

In addition, the Board directs the Superintendent to cooperate impartially with all candidates in providing them with information about school governance, Board operations, and school programs. This cooperation, for example, may include:

1. Providing candidates with a copy of the Board of Education informational brochure and notifying the candidates that the schedule of public meetings of the Board, Board agendas, and current Board policies and administrative regulations, are available on the District's website.
2. Meeting with a candidate or candidates to provide background information on the school system and school Board service and/or arranging for any other candidate- orientation sessions that may be desirable.
3. Notifying candidates that information on the powers and duties of school board members is published by the Illinois Association of School Boards is available on the IASB website at www.iasb.com, and published by the Illinois State Board of Education, available on its website at www.isbe.net.

The Board of Education informational brochure, and any other documentation to be provided to a candidate, may also be picked up at the District's Administration offices.

The Board and staff will seek to be impartial as they cooperate in the orientation of Board candidates. However, the candidates are expected to recognize that until and unless elected to the Board, their official status is that of other members of the public. Therefore, they are not entitled to privileged information discussed only in executive session.

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, Open Meetings Act.

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 Board of Education Meetings)

Adopted: February 3, 2025

PRESSPlus Comments

