

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; and (4) trauma-informed practices for students and staff; and (5) improving student outcomes, [PRESSPlus1](#) 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~~ 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 post on the District website the names of all Board members who have completed the professional development leadership training described in number 1, above.

Professional Development; Adverse Consequences of School Exclusion; Student Behavior [PRESSPlus2](#)

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, [PRESSPlus3](#) adverse consequences of school exclusion and justice-system involvement, effective classroom management strategies, culturally responsive discipline, trauma-responsive learning environments, [PRESSPlus4](#) 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 of Education will conduct periodic self-evaluations with the goal of continuous improvement.

New Board Member Orientation

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

1. The Board President or designee shall arrange a meeting with new Board members for the purpose of explaining and answering questions about Board processes and procedures.
2. The Superintendent or designee shall give each new Board of Education member a copy of online access to the Board of Education Policy Manual, the Board of Education's regular meeting minutes for the past year, and other helpful information including material explaining the Board of Education's roles and responsibilities.
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 of Education member to attend: (1) Board of Education 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 Ethics), 2:125 (Board Member Compensation; Expenses), 2:200 (Types of Board of Education Meetings)

ADOPTED: April 10, 2007

REVISED: March 12, 2012; September 9, 2013; December 12, 2016; January 10, 2022; November 13, 2023

REVIEWED:

PRESSPlus Comments

[PRESSPlus 1](#). Updated in response to 105 ILCS 5/10-16a, amended by P.A. 103-771, eff. 6-1-25. Training on improving student outcomes "must include information that is relevant to and within the scope of the duties of a school board member." **Issue 117, October 2024**

[PRESSPlus 2](#). Updated in response to 105 ILCS 5/10-22.6(c-5), amended by P.A. 103-896. While a district must make reasonable efforts to provide professional development to board members in these areas, the inclusion of this subhead is optional. Information about professional development opportunities is available through IASB's website at: www.iasb.com/conference-training-and-events/training/. **Issue 117, October 2024**

[PRESSPlus 3](#). 105 ILCS 5/10-22.6, amended by P.A.s 102-466, eff. 7-1-25, 102-539, and 103-896, addresses the suspension or expulsion of students and school searches. See sample policies 7:190, *Student Behavior*, 7:200, *Suspension Procedures*, 7:210, *Expulsion Procedures*, and 7:220, *Bus Conduct*, available at PRESS Online by logging in at www.iasb.com. 105 ILCS 5/10-20.14, amended by P.A. 103-896, addresses parent-teacher advisory committees and their functions. See sample policy 2:150, *Committees*. **Issue 117, October 2024**

[PRESSPlus 4](#). See 105 ILCS 5/3-11(b), amended by P.A. 103-413, for the definition of *trauma-responsive learning environments*. **Issue 117, October 2024**