



Texas Association of School Boards

P.O. Box 400 • Austin, Texas 78767-0400 • 512.467.0222
12007 Research Blvd. • Austin, Texas 78759-2439 • www.tasb.org

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To: School Board Presidents and Superintendents
From: William Nemir, Director, Leadership Team Services
Date: November 19, 2010
Subject: State Board Rule on Board Member Continuing Education

On November 19, the State Board of Education (SBOE) adopted amendments to its rule on continuing education for school board members (19 TAC §61.1). The amendments will take effect in late December.

The amendments do not change the continuing education requirements for board members. However, they do clarify requirements for announcing which board members have completed the required training, and they add a provision to ensure that board members receive a copy of the Framework for Governance Leadership each year. Substantive changes to the rule are as follows:

1. **Announcement of Credit.** Since 1986, the SBOE rule has required the board president to make a public announcement each year of the names of those board members who have completed the required continuing education, who have exceeded the required hours, and who are deficient. The board president must ensure that this information is reflected in the minutes of the meeting and that it is made available to the press. The rule has required this announcement to be made at the meeting at which the call for election of board members is normally scheduled.

In 2007, the Legislature amended its statute on training to require an announcement at the last regular meeting of the board of trustees during the calendar year. Since that time, TASB has advised districts to make both announcements until the SBOE rule was modified.

The amendments approved November 19, 2010, remove any reference to an announcement at the meeting for the call for elections. The only announcement the board president must make is now at the last regular board meeting in the calendar year, which for most boards is the December meeting.

As you prepare for your December meeting, please be sure to include the announcement on the agenda.

If there are members of your board who are deficient in credits, encourage them to look into the offerings available at any time through the TASB Online Learning Center (www.onlinelearning.tasb.org) or to register for an event that will help them complete the requirements as soon as possible.

2. **Dissemination of the Framework for Governance Leadership.** The amendments require that the board president annually distribute the Framework for Governance Leadership (also known as the Framework for School Board Development) to all current members of the board and the superintendent. This document appears in TASB localized policy manuals as an exhibit in policy code BBD and can be found in the Continuing Education Credit Reporting section of the TASB web site.

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We recommend that the document be distributed each year at the December meeting and to new board members as a part of their local orientation.

TASB will continue to review the amendments and discuss any questions that arise with Texas Education Agency staff. We will provide an updated Q&A document on board member continuing education requirements in the spring of 2011.

If you have questions about continuing education requirements, you may contact me, Marla Gilliland, or Faith Macon at 800-580-8272.

cc: Administrative Assistants to the Superintendents