

School Board

School District Governance ¹

The District is governed by a School Board consisting of seven members.² The Board's powers and duties include the authority to adopt, enforce, and monitor all policies for the management and governance of the District's schools.³

Official action by the Board may only occur at a duly called and legally conducted meeting. Except as otherwise provided by the Open Meetings Act, a quorum must be physically present at the meeting.⁴

As stated in the Board member oath of office prescribed by the School Code, a Board member has no legal authority as an individual.⁵

LEGAL REF.: 5 ILCS 120/, Open Meetings Act.
105 ILCS 5/10-1, 5/10-10, 5/10-12, 5/10-16.5, 5/10-16.7, and 5/10-20.5.

CROSS REF.: 1:10 (School District Legal Status), 2:20 (Powers and Duties of the School Board; Indemnification), 2:80 (Board Member Oath and Conduct), 2:120 (Board Member Development), 2:200 (Types of School Board Meetings), 2:220 (School Board Meeting Procedure)

The footnotes are not intended to be part of the adopted policy; they should be removed before the policy is adopted.

¹ State law controls this policy's content. IASB sample policies are aligned with the IASB *Foundational Principles of Effective Governance*, www.iasb.com/principles_popup.cfm.

Sample policy 2:120, *Board Member Development*, contains the board member training requirements.

² School districts having a population between 1,000 and 500,000 inhabitants are governed by a seven-member board of education. 105 ILCS 5/10-10. School districts having a population of less than 1,000 are governed by a three-member board of school directors, unless it is governed by a special act, or is a consolidated district, or a district in which the membership was increased by the passage of a proposition. 105 ILCS 5/10-1.

³ 105 ILCS 5/10-16.7 and 5/10-20.

⁴ 5 ILCS 120/2.01 and 120/7(e)(1)-(10), amended by P.A. 101-640; see also 105 ILCS 5/10-12.

The Open Meetings Act (OMA) defines *meeting* as "any gathering, whether in person or by video or audio conference, telephone call, electronic means (such as, without limitation, electronic mail, electronic chat, and instant messaging), or other means of contemporaneous interactive communication, of a majority of a quorum of the members of a public body held for the purpose of discussing public business." 5 ILCS 120/1.02. A quorum must be physically present for all meetings, except under limited circumstances during a public health emergency. 5 ILCS 120/2.01 and 120/7(e). During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Open Meetings Act was amended to give public bodies the flexibility to meet without the presence of a physical quorum during a disaster declaration related to a public health emergency. See f/n 32 of policy 2:220, *School Board Meeting Procedure*, and its subhead **No Physical Presence of Quorum and Participation by Audio or Video; Disaster Declaration**.

⁵ The oath is found in 105 ILCS 5/10-16.5. Specific board officers may have individual authority; for example, the president may call a special meeting. 105 ILCS 5/10-16.