



BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY

BBBC Board Member Development Opportunities

8/22/13 ~~??/??/15~~

The Cobb County Board of Education (Board) places a high priority on the importance of a planned and continuing program of professional development of its members. Board members are encouraged to keep abreast of educational trends, practices, laws, and theories by reading professional materials and, as funds permit, by participating in workshops, seminars, and conventions.

A. TRAINING REQUIREMENTS:

1. Newly Elected Board Members:

Newly elected members of the Board shall participate, as a minimum, in 15 hours of training within one year of taking office. Newly elected members of the Board may participate in such training for new board members after being elected as a member and before being sworn in to the post. At least:

- a. Five hours of such training shall be in school finance and budgeting provided by the Finance and Budget Office of the Georgia Department of Education;
- b. Three hours of such training shall be training in accordance with the whole board governance team training provision set forth in section ~~€3.~~ below; and
- c. Three hours of training shall be in a local district orientation session held within 60 days after the member's election or appointment. The purpose of the local orientation is to familiarize new board members with Board policies, Board procedures, Cobb County School District (District) goals and Board budget. A minimum of one hour of these three hours, and in addition to the hours required in A.1.a. above, shall be in school finance and budgeting and shall be focused on the district's most recent audit, financial statements and budget. The Superintendent, Board chair, and the Chief Financial Officer shall conduct the local district orientation.

2. Board Members With One or More Years of Service:

Board members with one or more years of board service shall participate, as a minimum, in nine hours of training annually. Three hours of required training shall include the whole board governance team training provision. Board members with a break in service of more than one year shall be considered new board members for training purposes.

3. Whole Board Governance Team Training:

Whole Board Governance Team Training, as a minimum of three hours, shall be conducted annually. The purpose of such training is to enhance the effectiveness of the Board and to assess the continuing education needs of the Board and Superintendent. The assessment of needs shall be based on the State-Board adopted standards for local school governance and shall be used to plan the locally adopted board training program.

4. Legal Requirements:

Local board members training shall adhere to all applicable laws, including O.C.G.A. § 20-2-230(2), State Board of Education Rule 160-5-1-.36, and the "Training Program Requirements for Members of Local Boards of Education" promulgated by the State Board of Education pursuant to State Board of Education Rule 160-5-1-.36(b).

- a. Each training program shall include training criteria aligned with State Board of Education governance standards for local boards.
- b. With the exception of the local district orientation session described in section A.1.c. above, all required board member training shall be conducted by Training Providers approved by the State Board of Education.
- c. Board members may also participate in additional training based on identified needs.
- d. The Board chair shall receive training related to leadership duties of a board chair as some portion of the annual requirement.

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B. BUDGET:

The Board shall determine annually, in conjunction with the preparation of its annual budget, the extent of the funds available for member expenses to attend approved professional development activities.

~~C. AUTHORIZATION FOR EXPENSES:~~

- ~~1. Reimbursement for, or pre-payment of, expenses involved with professional development activities must be authorized by a majority vote of the Board prior to expenses being incurred. Following such authorization and pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 20-2-230(b)(3), board members shall be paid for attendance at required training programs the same per diem as authorized by local or general laws for attendance at regular meetings, as well as reimbursement or pre-payment of actual expenses for travel, lodging, meals and registration fees for such training, either before or after such board member assumes office.~~
- ~~2. In cases in which the Board Chair is requested to attend any professional development activity or similar event as a representative of the Board prior to a regularly scheduled meeting of the Board, reimbursement for, or pre-payment of, expenses shall be authorized at the next regular meeting.~~

~~D. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS:~~

~~Following any professional development activity not attended by a majority of board members, for which a board member has sought reimbursement, or pre-payment, a short report summarizing the most important ideas that they have to share with their colleagues shall be made.~~

Adopted: 6/28/12
Revised: 8/22/13; **??/15**

Legal Reference	
O.C.G.A. 20-2-51	Election of county board members; persons ineligible to serve
Rule 160-5-1-.36	Local School Board Governance