

New Member Orientation/Board Member Development Opportunities

Code: **BIA/BIB** Adopted: **2/1973** Latest Revision: **7/20/2023** Latest Review: **7/20/2023**

The board and superintendent, to the best of their ability, will assist each newly elected, **reelected, appointed, or reappointed** member in understanding the board's functions, policies, and procedures. The superintendent will provide each newly elected member with materials pertinent to board operations, including access to the board policy manual. **The board will provide each newly elected, reelected, appointed, or reappointed member with information about training required by state law and administrative support to ensure members comply with mandatory training requirements.**

Training for Members

State law requires all newly elected, reelected, appointed, or reappointed members to successfully complete a state-approved training program within nine months of taking office. The program will include the powers, duties, and responsibilities of board members, as well as other topics, including but not limited to board relations, policy development, personnel, superintendent, instructional programs, district finance, school law, community relations and board ethics.

Board members who fail to comply with the mandatory training requirements may be referred by the State Board of Education to the Governor for possible removal from office in accordance with state law and the procedures outline in policy BBBD, Board Removal from Office.

Certification

The board will certify that all members have completed with the training requirements, the State Ethics Act, and the local code of ethics within nine months of an elections, reelection, appointment, or reappointment of its members. The certification will be published in the minutes of the next regularly scheduled board meeting.

Orientation for New Members

~~The magnitude of school board membership calls for knowledge of, and orientation to, many areas of information and understandings. Under the guidance of experienced board members and the superintendent, orientation will be provided to new board members through activities such as these:~~

- ~~workshops for new board members conducted by state and area school boards' associations~~
- ~~discussions and visits with the superintendent and other members of the school staff~~
- ~~provisions of materials on school laws, board policies, and administrative procedures~~

~~Copies of the board's policy manual, state school board manual, and board minutes for the previous three months will be delivered to new members as soon as possible after their election.~~

~~Orientation will be considered as an ongoing process for all board members, and may include such activities as those indicated above and the addition of items such as these:~~

- ~~• attendance at school board and administrative conferences and conventions on a local, area, state, regional and national basis~~
- ~~• exchange of ideas through joint meetings with neighboring boards~~
- ~~• develop a new board member manual and provide local training~~

~~State law requires all new members elected or appointed after July 1, 1997, to successfully complete a state approved orientation program within one year of taking office. The program will include the powers, duties, and responsibilities of board members as well as other topics.~~

~~Board members already serving on July 1, 1997, and continuously reelected or reappointed are exempt from this requirement.~~

Board Member Development Opportunities

The board will encourage all its members to participate in meetings and activities of state, area, and national school boards associations and other educational groups and to study and examine the materials received from these organizations.

The district budget will include allocations for travel expenses for individual members to advance their development as board members. When the full board does not attend a conference, convention, or workshop, those who do participate will be asked to share information, recommendations, and materials acquired at the meeting.

To help members develop an understanding of the education program, the superintendent will request members of the professional staff or consultants to appear before the board to present and discuss new developments in various areas of curriculum and instruction and district administration.

Adopted 2/73; Revised 11/20/86, 11/20/88, 10/16/97, 12/19/01, 3/15/12, 2/11/20, 7/20/2023

Legal References:

A. S.C. Code of Laws, 1976, as amended:

1. Section 8-15-60 - Boards authorized to foster, encourage, and provide for training for board members.
2. Section 59-19-45 - Orientation program for new board members.

Florence County School District 3