

Training Requirements for School Board Members



presented by

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Topics

- General Requirements in Ark. Code Ann. §6-13-629
- New Requirements
 - Act 168 of 2019
 - Act 1029 of 2019
- Requirements for Returning Board Members
- Requirements for New Board Members
- Training Content



General Requirements

General requirements can be found at:

- Ark. Code Ann. §6-13-629
- DESE Rules Governing Required Board Training for School Board Members
 - On the DESE Website (Go to Topics A-Z > R > Rules > Current Rules)



New Requirements

Two new 2019 Acts altered the requirements:

- Act 168 of 2019
- Act 1029 of 2019



Act 168 of 2019

- Realigned the requirement for new Board members to be trained on how to reach and interpret an audit report as part of their first 9 hours of board training, regardless of whether elected in the Spring or Fall.
 - Previously required within the first 15 months



Act 1029 of 2019

- Adds to the list of training topics required;
- Board members must receive information regarding school safety and student discipline; and
- This training is only required one time per board member, not annually.



Requirements for Returning Board Members

- “Returning Board Members” means those who have served at least 12 consecutive months
- Annual Training = 6 Hours
- Due December 31 of each calendar year



Requirements for New Board Members

- Annual Training = 9 Hours
- Due December 31 of the calendar year after the year in which the member was elected
- **Training on how to read and interpret an audit report**
 - Example: Bob was elected November 3, 2020. He has 9 hours of training due by December 31 of 2021.



Both New and Returning Board Members

- Hours in excess of the requirement can carry forward through December 31 of the third calendar year following the year in which the hours were obtained.
 - Example: Bob is a new board member who gets 12 hours of training by December 31, 2021. Three hours are above the required number of hours, so they can carry forward until December 31, 2024.



Training Content

- Audit management letter
- Ethical Guidelines
- School Elections
- Management of Schools
- Revolving loan funds
- District finances
- District school bonds
- Teachers and employees
- Teacher salaries
- Deposit and investment of funds
- Improvement contracts
- Anything else designated by DESE (usually in rules)
- Role differentiation
- Financial management (including audit reports)
- Improving student achievement
- **School Safety**
- **Student Discipline**
 - These are new requirements and are only required **once**



Resources

Rules Governing Training for School Board Members

[http://dese.ade.arkansas.gov/public/userfiles/Legal/Legal-Current%20Rules/2020/FINAL Training for Board Members.pdf](http://dese.ade.arkansas.gov/public/userfiles/Legal/Legal-Current%20Rules/2020/FINAL_Training_for_Board_Members.pdf)

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