

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER DEVELOPMENT

The School Board places a high priority on a planned and continuing program of professional development for all its members. The School Board requires the same focus from all Albemarle County Public Schools employees. While the Code of Virginia requires annual School Board member training, this policy clarifies and expands the State Code description as it pertains to Albemarle County Public Schools.

The purpose of School Board member professional development and training is to enhance the quality and effectiveness of public school governance in our school community. Therefore, the School Board shall plan and require attendance in specific in-service activities designed to provide an orientation for newly elected School Board members and members serving in School Board leadership positions, assist School Board members in their efforts to improve their skills as members of a policy-making body; to expand their knowledge about educational trends, issues, and changes affecting the continued welfare of the local schools and students; and to deepen their insights into the nature of leadership in a modern democratic society.

Funds shall be budgeted annually to support this program. Individual School Board members shall be reimbursed for out-of-pocket costs incurred through participation in approved activities. The School Board as a whole shall retain the authority to approve or disapprove the participation of members in planned activities.

The public shall be kept informed about the School Board's continuing inservice education and about the program's anticipated short- and long-range benefits to the school division.

The School Board regards the following as the kinds of activities and services appropriate for implementing this policy:

1. Participation in School Board conferences, workshops, and conventions held by the Virginia School Boards Association the National School Boards Association, and the State Department of Education.
2. Albemarle County Public Schools' sponsored training sessions for School Board members.
3. Developmental activities and retreats planned by the School Board.
4. Participation in college and university teleconferences, joint training opportunities and business/industry training specifically related to School Board governance, including, but not limited to personnel; policies and practices; curriculum and instruction; use of technology and data in planning and decision making; and current issues in education.

School Board members wishing to participate in activities or courses in lieu of those listed above but associated with other skills and knowledge beneficial to their role as a member of the School Board may submit to the School Board a request for approval.

Adopted: July 1, 1993

Amended: June 26, 2003, August 16, 2004, August 14, 2008; January 28, 2010

Legal Ref: Code of Virginia, Section 1950, as amended §§ 22.1-78; 22.1-253.13:5(D)