Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to encourage and provide for members of the Board to participate in professional learning activities to improve their governance skills, including but not limited to policymaking, fiscal oversight, and effective representation of diverse communities in pursuit of improved student outcomes.

Required Training for Board Members

New Board members shall receive training in the following topics:

- Open Meetings Laws
- Governance vs. Management
- School Finance and Best Practices for Fiscal Oversight
- Academic Accountability Best Practices
- Anti-Racism / Educational Equity / Diversity / Inclusion/ Belonging

Board members shall receive the required trainings from a provider with substantive, successful school board experience no later than 180 days after they take their oath of office or assume their duties. Board members may receive the trainings before they are sworn in or assume their duties of office. All Board members are welcome to attend trainings when scheduled for new Board members at any time. Tenured Board members shall receive “refresher” training in these topics at intervals of no more than four years, so long as they remain on the Board.

On-going Training for Board Members

In addition to new Board member training, all Board members shall participate in ongoing training and capacity building. This training and support shall be directly related to their duties as Board members and could include attendance at conferences, participation in fellowships, virtual trainings, or local training addressing specific professional learning needs of the Board member.

Professional Learning Quality

All Board members completing trainings shall rate the overall quality of the training on a scale of 1-4:

1. Ineffective
2. Needs Improvement
3. Effective
4. Highly Effective

After receiving at least three ratings, any training or provider of trainings receiving an average score of less than a “3” shall be excluded from further engagements with the Board for at least two years.

**Budget**

Funds for Board leadership training and professional learning activities shall be available to all Board members and included in the annual budget as a separate line item.

The Board shall reimburse the necessary expenses of all Board members who attend meetings or conventions pertaining to school activities and the objectives of the Board. Such expense reimbursements shall be in accordance with the approved policies and budget allocations of the district. In addition to the required trainings all Board members must receive as per this policy, a minimum of $5,000 per board member, per year shall be included in the district operating budget for discretionary board member training and conference fees and associated travel expenses. Each Board member shall be allowed to select training and professional learning that aligns most closely with their goals as a Board member and should not be restricted to specific providers unless designated by law.

The Board shall not pay the travel expenses of spouses, family members, or other persons who have no responsibilities or duties to perform for the Board when they accompany Board members to Board-related activities.

The Board shall have final responsibility in determining compliance with this policy. Board Members who attend trainings or conferences shall provide a verbal or written summary to the Board on their experience and/or findings from the experiences.

**Legal Reference:**

**EDUCATION CODE**
33360 Department of Education and statewide association of school district boards; annual workshop

**Senate Bill:**
Civil Code of Regulations:

**Government Code of Regulations:** 54950-54963 The Ralph M. Brown Act

Revision Dates: March 8, 2017, January 24, 2018, August 23, 2023, September 13, 2023