

NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION/BOARD MEMBER DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Code **BIA/BIB** Issued **8/04**

Purpose: To establish the basic structure for facilitating awareness by board members of their role and responsibility to ensure their accountability to the public.

The board and superintendent, to the best of their ability, will assist each newly elected member to understand the board's functions, policies and procedures. The superintendent will provide each newly elected member with materials pertinent to board operations, including a copy of the board policy manual.

Orientation for new members

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

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

Adopted 7/1/75; Revised 8/13/91, 10/14/97, 8/10/04

Legal references:

- A. S.C. Code, 1976, as amended:
 - 1. Section 8-15-60 - Professional development opportunities.
 - 2. Section 59-19-45 - Orientation program for new board members.