

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER DEVELOPMENT

The Albemarle County School Board (“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 (“ACPS”) employees. The Virginia Code requires annual School Board member training; this policy clarifies and expands the Virginia Code description as it pertains to the ACPS.

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 and to assist School Board members in improving 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.

Members of the School Board participate annually in high-quality professional development activities at the state, local, or national levels on governance, including personnel policies and practices; the evaluation of personnel, curriculum, and instruction; use of data in planning and decision-making; and current issues in education as part of their service on the School Board.

Each elected School Board member completes a training session on the: (a) Virginia Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) provided by the Virginia Freedom of Information Advisory Council or the School Board’s Attorney; and (b) State and Local Government Conflict of Interests Act (COIA) provided by the Virginia Conflict of Interest and Ethics Advisory Council (“Ethics Council”) within two (2) months of assuming office and thereafter at least once every two (2) calendar years.

The School Board Clerk maintains records of the dates on which each elected School Board member completed the required FOIA and COIA training sessions. The records are maintained in the Clerk’s office for five (5) years.

School Board members will be trained in the ACPS’s *Anti-Racism Policy*, policy AC.

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 Virginia Department of Education.

2. ACPS-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; September 8, 2011; September 26, 2013; May 24, 2018; April 28, 2022; October 26, 2023
Equity Review: April 28, 2022

Legal Ref: Code of Virginia, Section 1950, as amended §§ 2.2-3132, 2.2-3704.3, 22.1-78; 22.1-253.13:5.

Cross Refs: BBFA, *Conflict of Interests and Disclosure of Economic Interests*
BCC, *School Board Clerk*



**Alternate Professional Development Activity
School Board Member Request for Approval**

School Board members wishing to meet professional development requirements of both Policy BHB and state code may request approval from the School Board of alternate activities in lieu of those cited in the policy. Such alternate activities must present additional skills and knowledge specifically beneficial to a member’s role as a member of the School Board. This form should be submitted to the Clerk who will present it for action by the School Board.

<i>Name:</i>	<i>Date:</i>
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<i>Sponsor and Activity:</i>

<i>Information/Description/Time Frame:</i>
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<i>Summarize reasons this activity addresses, benefits and enhances the specific role of being a member of the Albemarle County School Board.</i>

Signature: _____