

*NOTE: Footnotes are for reference only. They should be eliminated from an individual board's policy.*

## **BOARD MEMBER OPPORTUNITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT**

*Policy Code:*

**2123**

Board members are encouraged to participate in school board development activities designed for them. New board members will have the opportunity and will be encouraged to attend orientation programs for new board members sponsored by the state and national school boards associations. It is the responsibility of the board to provide new board members with a thorough orientation to board policies, practices, and duties.

Each board member must fulfill the legal requirement to receive a minimum of 12 hours of training every two years.

All board members must receive a minimum of two hours of ethics education within 12 months after initial election or appointment to office and again within 12 months after each subsequent election or appointment to office.<sup>1</sup> This education must address the laws and principles that govern conflicts of interest and ethical standards for local government officials. The superintendent shall maintain records verifying that each board member has participated in the required ethics education. The ethics education required under this paragraph may be counted towards the 12-hour training requirement.

Unless otherwise approved by the board, such training must be provided by the following entities:<sup>2</sup> the school system, the North Carolina School Boards Association, the Consortium of State School Boards Associations, the School of Government, or the Department of Public Instruction. If a board member wishes to receive training credit or be reimbursed for attending training offered by another entity, he or she must obtain approval from the board.<sup>3</sup>

Funds for participation will be budgeted annually, and reimbursement for expenses will be made in accordance with law and applicable board policy.

Legal References: G.S. 115C-50; 160A-86, -87

Cross References: Code of Ethics for School Board Members (policy 2120)

Issued: June 1997

Revised: June 26, 2002; December 1, 2009; January 27, 2012; November 13, 2015; September 30, 2022

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<sup>1</sup> If all board members are appointed, delete "election or."

<sup>2</sup> G.S. 115C-50 states that such training may be offered by the North Carolina School Boards Association, the University of North Carolina School of Government, or other qualified sources that the board chooses. G.S. 160A-87 states that the required ethics education may be provided by the same organizations.

<sup>3</sup> If the board wishes to be more restrictive with regard to this provision, the board may use the phrase "must obtain approval from the board prior to participation" instead of the sentence as it is written.