



STATE OF ALABAMA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



Eric G. Mackey, Ed.D.
State Superintendent of Education

June 8, 2026

MEMORANDUM

TO: City and County School Board Members

FROM: Eric G. Mackey 
State Superintendent of Education

RE: 2026-2027 Governance Act Training Requirements

The *School Board Governance Improvement Act of 2012* charges the State Superintendent of Education with implementing a training program for school board members and determining whether training on a specific topic is needed in a given year. For the 2026-2027 training year, which begins July 1, we will continue the requirement that every board member receive at least six (6) hours of training, including two (2) hours of whole board training. This must be completed by June 30, 2027. We will not mandate specific training topics this year.

As a reminder, board members who take office for the first time or begin a new term also must complete orientation training covering the roles and responsibilities of the board; finance; ethics; board meetings; legal and personnel issues; advocacy; the Governance Act; student and school performance; working with the board attorney and superintendent; and public/media relations. You have one year after July 1 following your election or appointment to meet this requirement. Any board member who is not in compliance with the continuing education and training requirements by June 30, outlined in *Alabama Code* § 16-1-26 (2024) shall have their compensation held in escrow.

Please note the following reminders related to the training program:

- The whole-board training requirement is waived for board members who take office after their boards have completed the whole board training for the year.
- Whole-board training is defined as a training session attended by at least the majority of the members of the school board and their superintendent during which the trainer or facilitator interacts directly with the board members to discuss an issue or issues specifically as they pertain to the board or system. These sessions must focus on training the board-superintendent team in new skills or knowledge. They should not be used for the board to do its regular work, such as reviewing some aspects of the system's operation or instructional program.

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- All requests to use a non-Alabama Association of School Boards (AASB) trainer for orientation and/or whole-board training must be submitted in writing using the External Training Application on the AASB website. These requests should be made at least one month in advance and are reviewed by a committee comprised of representatives of the Alabama State Department of Education, School Superintendents of Alabama, and AASB. These results will be provided to your system personnel.
- School board members receive up to three (3) hours of training credit for attending the Consortium of State School Boards Association's (COSSBA) annual conference. This is the maximum credit awarded for out-of-state training annually; the remaining three (3) hours must be earned in-state.
- Because board members attending COSSBA's Advocacy Conference and/or the Alabama Association of School Boards' Advocacy Days receive substantial training on issues facing public education, school board members may earn two (2) hours of credit for participating in an Advocacy Day and three (3) hours of credit for participating in the Advocacy Conference. This reflects time spent on training, not on advocacy activities.
- Board members wishing to apply for a waiver for some aspect of the training requirements must do so using the Governance Act Waiver Request form. Requests are not considered unless they are submitted in writing using this form that may be found on the Training page on the Alabama Association of School Boards (AASB) website (AlabamaSchoolBoards.org) under the topic "Training Law." Waivers should be requested before the end of the training year for which they are sought.
- Board members who have already taken orientation are not required to take it again.

Thank you for the work you do for Alabama's school children and for your ongoing efforts to improve your boardmanship skills.

EGM:LAK

cc: City and County Superintendents of Education