

NEW BOARD MEMBER WORKSHOP

The board of education will assist newly elected board members to become familiar with their duties and responsibilities as quickly as possible. All board members are encouraged to attend appropriate workshops, seminars, and conventions in order to develop professionalism and expertise.

A school board member who is elected or appointed to be a member of the board of education prior to January 1, 2014, shall complete 2 hours of school finance, 2 hours of open meeting/open records act, 1 hour of new business, 1 hour of ethics, duties and responsibilities, 2 hours of legal issues, 1 hour of school employment, 2 hours of IDEA/Special Education, and 1 hour of Educational issues for a total of twelve (12) hours of instruction within the first fifteen (15) months of election or appointment. Failure to earn these requirements in the fifteen (15) month period will result in a requirement that the board of education declare the seat vacant as per state law. The individual who failed to earn the credits in the statutory deadline is prohibited by law from serving for a full term of office.

A school board member who is elected or appointed to be a member of the board of education on or after January 1, 2014, shall be required to earn twelve (12) new board member credits within the first fifteen (15) months of office. These twelve (12) credits shall include at least one (1) hour of instruction in school finance, one (1) hour of instruction in the Oklahoma Open Records Act and the Oklahoma Open Meeting Act, and one (1) hour of instruction in ethics. The remaining nine (9) hours may be in legal issues, due process, new laws, the Oklahoma Open Records Act and the Open Meeting Act, duties and responsibilities, which include but are not limited to special education and ethics of district board of education members.

Board members who attend and successfully complete such workshops as required by state law, which are presented by the OSSBA, the State Board of Education, or an organization or association approved by the SDE, shall be reimbursed for expenses incurred in accordance with the district's travel reimbursement policy.

The superintendent or the superintendent's designee will maintain records of each board member's training accomplishments and will notify any board member of the need for the board member to accomplish any additional training. The superintendent will notify the State Department of Education of any changes in board membership.

REFERENCE: 70 O.S. §5-110