

ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
PROPOSED RULE GOVERNING REQUIRED TRAINING
FOR SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS

Drafted 12.14.05

1.00 REGULATORY AUTHORITY

- 1.01 The State Board of Education promulgates this Rule pursuant to Ark. Code Ann. §§6-13-629 and 6-11-105.
- 1.02 This Rule shall be known as the Arkansas Department of Education (ADE) Rule Governing Required Training for School Board Members.

2.00 PURPOSE

The purpose of this Rule is to outline the type and amount of training required for new and continuing local school board members.

3.00 DEFINITIONS

- 3.01 “Annual School Performance Report” means the report required to be published by the ADE for each school district annually under Ark. Code Ann. §6-15-1402.
- 3.02 “Comprehensive School Plan” means the plan that each local school district must prepare annually under the ADE Rule Governing Standards for Accreditation of Arkansas Public Schools and School Districts (ADE Standards Rule), Section 7.04.1.
- 3.03 “Publish” means to provide information to a local newspaper of general circulation and to arrange for placement of the information, including payment of all relevant fees.

4.00 TRAINING HOURS REQUIRED

- 4.01 All members of a local school district board of directors who have served on the board for twelve (12) or more consecutive months shall obtain no less than six (6) hours of training and instruction by December 31 of each calendar year.
- 4.02 All members of a school district board of directors elected for an initial or non-continuous term shall obtain no less than nine (9) hours of training and instruction by December 31 of the calendar year following the year in which they were elected.
- 4.03 Hours of training and instruction obtained in excess of the minimum requirements each year may accumulate and be carried forward through December 31 of the third calendar year following the year in which the hours were obtained.

5.00 TRAINING CONTENT

The training and instruction required under this Rule shall include topics relevant to:

- school laws;
- school operations; and
- the powers, duties, and responsibilities of the members of the board of directors, including, but not limited to, legal requirements, role differentiation, financial management, and improving student achievement.

6.00 TRAINING PROVIDERS

- 6.01 This instruction may be provided to board members by an institution of higher learning in this state, by programs sponsored or approved by the ADE, or by an in-service training program conducted by or through the Arkansas School Boards Association.
- 6.02 Any instruction directly provided to board members by either an institution of higher learning in this state, the ADE, or the Arkansas School Boards Association, which instruction meets the training content requirements of Section 5.00 of this Rule, shall not require pre-approval by the ADE.
- 6.03 At least thirty (30) days before a training program meeting the content requirements of section 5.00 of this Rule is offered to members of a local school district's board of directors, the provider shall provide a detailed description of the entire program including staff qualifications to the ADE.
- 6.04 The ADE shall promptly review the content of the program for compliance with any and all applicable statutes and department rules to determine if any or all of the program content shall be deemed to provide training and instruction credit and shall establish the time period the training and instruction provider is approved to offer the program.
- 6.05 Upon notification by the ADE of approval of the program (or a part or parts thereof) for training and instruction credit, the provider may enroll participants in the program and offer the program for training and instruction credit for the set time period.
- 6.06 The provider shall be responsible for the preparation and dissemination of proof of completion of the program (or parts thereof) to all attendees. All such proofs, or copies thereof, shall be submitted by the board member attendees to the superintendent of the district whose board they serve.

7.00 RECORDS OF TRAINING

7.01 A school district shall maintain a record of hours of training and instruction for board members, which may be in the form of an attested, cumulative annual report from the training providers and which shall be subject to verification and inspection during the school district's annual audit.

7.02 A statement of the hours of training and instruction obtained by each board member in the preceding year shall be:

7.02.1 Part of the comprehensive school plan and goals;

7.02.2 Published in the same way that other components of the comprehensive school plan and goals are required to be published under the ADE Standards Rules.

7.02.3 Made a part of the annual school performance report required under Ark. Code Ann. § 6-15-1402.

8.00 AUTHORIZATION TO REIMBURSE FOR RELATED EXPENSES

Local school district boards of directors are authorized to a reasonable pay per diem and other necessary expenses from funds belonging to the school district and to reimburse school board directors for expenses incurred in attending in-service workshops, conferences, and other courses of training and instruction required in completing the training and instruction as required under this Rule.

9.00 ENFORCEMENT

9.01 A school district shall demonstrate compliance with the requirements of this Rule in addition to complying with the provisions of Section 7.00 of this Rule by causing its superintendent to file a written statement of assurance with the ADE pursuant to Ark. Code Ann. § 6-15-202.

9.02 A school district which fails to comply with the provisions of Ark. Code Ann. § 6-13-629 and the procedural requirements articulated in this Rule shall be subject to being placed in probationary status pursuant to Section 24.18 of the ADE Standards Rule.

Exhibit A

**ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
REQUEST TO PRESENT A TRAINING PROGRAM TO
SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS**

Please complete the following information and submit it to:

Ms. Janinne Riggs
Arkansas Department of Education
#4 Capitol Mall, Room 406-B
Little Rock, AR 72201-1071

Pursuant to Section 6.03 of the Department's Proposed Rule Governing Required Training for School Board Members (Rule), program providers must submit a detailed description of the entire program, including staff qualifications, to the Department so as to be received at least thirty (30) days prior to the date of the program. This deadline will allow for departmental review of the program to determine whether training and instruction credit pursuant to Ark. Code Ann. § 6-13-629 and this Rule may be awarded.

1.) Name and Address of Provider: _____

2.) Contract Person for Provider: Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Fax: _____

E-mail: _____

3.) Title and Detailed Description of Program: _____

4.) Please Indicate How the Program Content Will Apply To One or More of the Content Areas Required By Ark. Code Ann. § 6-13-629:

a. School Laws: _____

b. School Operations: _____

c. Powers, Duties and Responsibilities of the Members of the Board of Directors (including, but not limited to, legal requirements, role differentiation, financial management, and improving student management): _____

5.) Date(s) that Program is to be Presented: _____

6.) Members of Provider's Staff Who Will Provide Instruction at the Program with Their Qualifications:

a.) Staff Member's Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Fax Number: _____

E-mail: _____

Qualifications to Present Program (include relevant educational background, work experience, examples of similar programs presented, etc.):

b.) Staff Member's Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Fax Number: _____

E-mail: _____

Qualifications to Present Program (include relevant educational background, work experience, examples of similar programs presented, etc.):

c.) Staff Member's Name _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Fax Number: _____

E-mail: _____

Qualifications to Present Program (include relevant educational background, work experience, examples of similar programs presented, etc.):

d.) Staff Member's Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Fax Number: _____

E-mail: _____

Qualifications to Present Program (include relevant educational background, work experience, examples of similar programs presented, etc.):

e.) Staff Member's Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Fax Number: _____

E-mail: _____

Qualifications to Present Program (include relevant educational background, work experience, examples of similar programs presented, etc.):

f.) Staff Member's Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Fax Number: _____

E-mail: _____

Qualifications to Present Program (include relevant educational background, work experience, examples of similar programs presented, etc.):

- 7.) Please attach to this document any other information that you believe would be helpful in assisting the Department in determining whether to grant your request.
- 8.) The ADE shall promptly review the content of the program for compliance with any and all applicable statutes and department rules to determine if any or all of the program content shall be deemed to provide training and instruction credit and shall establish the time period the training and instruction provider is approved to offer the program.
- 9.) Upon notification by the ADE of approval of the program (or a part or parts thereof) for training and instruction credit, the provider may enroll participants in the program and offer the program for training and instruction credit for the set time period.
- 10.) The provider shall be responsible for the preparation and dissemination of proof of completion of the program (or parts thereof) to all attendees. All such proofs, or copies thereof, shall be submitted by the board member attendees to the superintendent of the district whose board they serve.

Submitted by: _____ Date: _____

FOR ADE USE ONLY

Date Provider Information Received: _____

Date Reviewed: _____

Request to Present Program: Approved: _____

Denied: _____

Date of Decision: _____

Signature of ADE Representative: _____