



WVSBA

# West Virginia School Board Association

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## Memorandum

TO: County Boards of Education Candidates  
FROM: Howard M. O’Cull, Ed.D., West Virginia School Board Association (WVSBA) Executive Director  
RE: Orientation and Training Required of County Board Members  
DATE: December 2, 2019

This is to inform you that West Virginia law (§18-5-1a) states “...(No) person elected to a county board of education (after July 1, 1990) shall assume the duties of board member unless he or she has first attended and completed a course of orientation relating to boardsmanship and governance effectiveness which shall be given between the date of election and the beginning of the member’s term of office...”

The statute also states “(A)ttendance at the session of orientation given between the date of election and the beginning of the member’s term of office shall permit such member or members to assume the duties of board member, as specified in this section.”

The statute reads further: “Members appointed to the board shall attend and complete the next such course provided following their appointment...” The Orientation provisions, however, do not apply to “members who have taken office prior to (July 1, 1988), and who serve continuously there from.”

**The Orientation course, as specified in this section, will be held June 15-17, 2020 at the Lakeview Resort & Conference Center, Morgantown, W. Va. NOTE: The West Virginia School Board Association (WVSBA) has no legal standing or authority to interpret this statute and its application. Accordingly, you may wish to receive legal guidance. Finally, the Code states, “Failure to attend and complete the approved course of orientation and training relating to boardsmanship and governance effectiveness without good cause as determined by the state board by duly promulgated legislative rules constitutes neglect of duty (West Virginia §6-6-7).”**

As referenced above, the statute requires county board members, once elected or appointed, to receive seven (7) clock hours school board member training annually relating to “boardsmanship and governance effectiveness.” You will note the pertinent penalties language which is found in West Virginia §6-6-7.

The West Virginia School Board Association (WVSBA), by law, is responsible for providing such training in accordance with State Board of Education directives and work of the State board of Education-approved County Board Member Training Standards Review Committee (TSRC) which is chaired by State Board President Dave Perry.

Because the Orientation is received prior to assuming office, Orientation attendance and Orientation program completion does not apply toward the seven (7) clock hours training requirement.

Should you have any questions regarding these matters, please contact Dr. O’Cull at 304-346-0571. His email address is [hocull@wvsba.org](mailto:hocull@wvsba.org) His cellular telephone number is 304-549-9463.

Additional inquiries regarding Orientation participation per se may be made to the State Superintendent of Schools, West Virginia Department of Education / 1900 Kanawha Boulevard East, Charleston, WV 25305.