



May 2019

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**Upcoming Free Webinar**

May 9 | 11:30 a.m.

Topic: Professional Development

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## Professional Development

School board service is an incredible commitment. The responsibilities of a board member today require more than a willingness to serve. It demands that individuals engage in ongoing professional development in order to stay current on laws and regulations as well as issues impacting education. Over twenty states, including Georgia, have mandated training requirements for both new and veteran board members. The majority of boards access their training through their state association.

By engaging in professional development, board members model for administration and staff the importance of continual training and self-improvement. It can also build confidence in individual board member's skills and expertise in executing his/her responsibilities.

Professional development can be undertaken by individual board members but is most effective when done in concert with the governance team (the board and superintendent). Professional development should be more than seat time, more than a canned presentation. It is important that the training address identified issues and/or specific needs of the team. One of the best ways to identify the topics is for the trainer to speak candidly and directly with the individual board members and the superintendent. This allows the trainer to tailor the training to the issues that can most directly impact the effectiveness of the governance team.

Association conference ([register for the 2019 Summer Conference](#)) and workshop attendance is an excellent opportunity for board members and their superintendent to participate in professional development. Agendas offer a variety of timely, informative topics from which board members may choose. One of the most important offerings is the legal issues session, which addresses policy implications of both state and federal legislation. Participants learn from peers through networking, discussing presentations and sharing effective strategies. Attendance at these conferences or training sessions also helps build collegiality in the governance team.

### Georgia Training Requirements

State law and state board rules require school board members to obtain board governance training each year. First-year board members are required to secure *fifteen* total hours of training. Nine hours must be delivered during GSBA's New Board Member Orientation (NBMO) in partnership with Georgia Department of Education (GDOE). Three hours must be delivered by your local district (Local District Orientation) with one of the three hours

focused on school finance. An additional 3-hour session of whole board governance training, which must also include the superintendent, is required.

Board members with one or more years of service are required to have **nine** hours of training each year, with three consisting of whole board governance training and six additional hours of relevant training. All training must be aligned with the state board's curriculum-based state standards and delivered by approved providers.

### **Timeline for Board Training Plans**

Each year governance teams are expected to develop and adopt their local board governance training plans and are given until the last week in October to submit them to the GDOE. The plans should be implemented during the fiscal year, and a local board governance training annual report is to be submitted to GDOE at the conclusion of that fiscal year. This report serves as documentation to GDOE that the governance team met its training responsibilities, including abiding by the code of ethics. Typically, the annual report to GDOE is expected to be submitted around the first week in October during the next fiscal year. The required dates for submittal are always within the purview of the GDOE and are subject to change each year.

### **RESOURCES:**

- **Board Development Catalog**
- **Board Recognition Chart**
- **Standards for Board Governance**
- **Superintendent Evaluation Simbli Module** ***\*\*Current Promotion: 50% Off all new Simbli Modules for current customers. FREE for new customers until 6/30/19\*\****

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### **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WEBINAR ON THURSDAY, MAY 9, 11:30 AM**

This session is on the importance of professional development as a school board member. You'll be hearing from GSBA's Director of Professional Development, Tony Arasi, and Board Development Manager, Sam King. This webinar is open to all board members and superintendents.

Please plan to join us!

The webinar will last 30-45 minutes, click **HERE** to register.

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## **MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR JUNE'S WEBINAR**

When: Thursday, June 13, 11:30 AM

Topic: Strategic Planning

**Register**

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## **APRIL 25 WEBINAR RESOURCES**

Thank you for attending April's webinar on Superintendent Evaluations. To view the presentation recording, click [here](#).

Additional resources, including the sample Superintendent Evaluation forms are accessible on *The Hub*. After logging in, click on the **Resources Tab** (on the left side of your screen), both forms are in the Governance Materials Folder.

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We are available if you need/want to talk, **so please don't hesitate to reach out.**

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