

Chapter 61. School Districts

Subchapter A. Board of Trustees Relationship

§61.1. Continuing Education for School Board Members.

(a)

Each school board member of an independent school district shall complete a local district

- (A) ~~Public response of the local district goals and priorities~~ board members with local board
- (B) ~~At a date appointed. A newly elected or appointed school board member who is elected or appointed before he or she~~ complete this training in the year preceding his or her election or appointment must complete the training within 120 calendar days after election or appointment.
- (C) The orientation shall be at least three hours in length.
- (D) The orientation shall address local district practices in the following, in addition to topics chosen by the local district:
  - (i) curriculum and instruction;
  - (ii) business and finance operations;
  - (iii) district operations;
  - (iv) superintendent evaluation; and
  - (v) board member roles and responsibilities.
- (E) Each board member should be made aware of the continuing education requirements of this section and those of the following:
  - (i) open meetings act in Texas Government Code, §551.005;
  - (ii) public information act in Texas Government Code, §552.012; and
  - (iii) cybersecurity in Texas Government Code, §2054.5191.
- (F) The orientation shall be open to any board member who chooses to attend.

Each school board member of an independent school district shall complete a basic orientation to the TEC and relevant legal obligations.

- (A) The orientation shall have special, but not exclusive, emphasis on statutory provisions related to governing Texas school districts.
- (B) A candidate for school board may complete the training up to one year before he or she is elected or appointed. A newly elected or appointed school board member who did not complete this training in the year preceding his or her election or appointment must complete the training within 120 calendar days after election or appointment.
- (C) The orientation shall be at least three hours in length.

- (D) Topics shall include, but not be limited to, the TEC, Chapter 26 (Parental Rights and Responsibilities), and the TEC, §28.004 (Local School Health Advisory Council and Health Education Instruction).
  - (E) The orientation shall be provided by a regional education service center (ESC).
  - (F) The orientation shall be open to any board member who chooses to attend.
  - (G) The continuing education may be fulfilled through online instruction, provided that the training incorporates interactive activities that assess learning and provide feedback to the learner and offers an opportunity for interaction with the instructor.
  - (H) The ESC shall determine the clock hours of training credit to be awarded for successful completion of an online course and shall provide verification of completion as required in subsection (h) of this section.
- (3) After each session of the Texas Legislature, including each regular session and called session related to education, each school board member shall complete an update to the basic orientation to the TEC.
- (A) The update session shall be of sufficient length to familiarize board members with major changes in statute and other relevant legal developments related to school governance.
  - (B) The update shall be provided by an ESC or a registered provider, as defined by subsection (c) of this section.
  - (C) A board member who has attended an ESC basic orientation session described in paragraph (2) of this subsection that incorporated the most recent legislative changes is not required to attend an update.
  - (D) The continuing education may be fulfilled through online instruction, provided that the







- (k) Annually, the SBOE shall commend those local board-superintendent teams that complete at least eight hours of the continuing education specified in subsection (b)(4) and (5) of this section as an entire board-superintendent team.
- (l) Annually, the SBOE shall commend local board-superintendent teams that effectively implement the commissioner's trustee improvement and evaluation tool developed under the TEC, §11.182, or any other tool approved by the commissioner.
- (m) This section will be implemented May 1, 2020. This section as it read prior to adoption by the SBOE at its January 2020 meeting controls continuing education for school board members until May 1, 2020.

*Statutory Authority: The provisions of this §61.1 issued under the Texas Education Code, §§11.159, 11.185, and 11.186.*

*Source: The provisions of this §61.1 adopted to be effective March 1, 1996, 21 TexReg 875; amended to be effective May 7, 2003, 28 TexReg 3718; amended to be effective December 20, 2010, 35 TexReg 11223; amended to be effective August 25, 2014, 39 TexReg 6224; amended to be effective June 13, 2018, 43 TexReg 3783; amended to be effective March 24, 2020, 45 TexReg 1984.*

**§61.2. Nomination of Trustees for Military Reservation School Districts and Boys Ranch Independent School District.**

- (a) For purposes of this section, commanding officer is defined as the officer who is assigned to serve physically on the installation or military reservation on which the military reservation school district is located and who provides leadership for the functional support of and contingency or emergency coordination for the military reservation school district.
- (b) In nominating trustee candidates for military reservation school districts, the commanding officer of the military reservation shall do the following:
  - (1)

- (1) submit a name to the commissioner for each vacancy. When two or more vacancies occur simultaneously, a name for each vacancy shall be submitted. In cases when the president and chief executive officer wishes to reappoint existing board members, the name of the existing board member for each vacancy must still be submitted;
  - (2) submit a statement that verifies that each of the nominees is qualified under the general school laws of Texas;
  - (3) submit a copy of a current biographical vita (resume) for each of the nominees, with a signature by the nominee attesting truth to the contents of the biographical vita;
  - (4) submit a statement from each of the nominees that expresses the nominee's willingness to accept appointment and to serve in such a capacity with full adherence to the state-established standards on the duties and responsibilities of school board members;
  - (5) submit a signed statement that expresses recognition of the powers of the board of trustees to govern and manage the operations of the Boys Ranch ISD;
  - (6) submit a signed statement regarding the governance and management operations of the district that expresses recognition that the role of the superintendent is in full compliance with the provisions of the TEC, §11.201; and
  - (7) submit a statement that the membership composition of the entire board of trustees is in full compliance with the provisions of the TEC, §11.352.
- (d) A member of a board of trustees appointed under the TEC, §11.352, and this section will serve a term of two years. A member of the board of trustees, who during the period of the term of office resigns from office or experiences a change of status that disqualifies such member for appointment under the provisions of the TEC, shall become ineligible to serve at the time of the change of status. A board vacancy resulting from such resignation or disqualification shall be filled in accordance with the procedures established under the TEC, §11.352, and this section.
- (e) Notwithstanding subsection (d) of this section, a trustee of a military reservation school district appointed under this section who retires from active duty or civilian service while serving as a member of the board of trustees may continue to serve for the remainder of his or her term.

*Statutory Authority: The provisions of this §61.2 issued under Texas Education Code, §11.352, as amended by House Bill 4210, 88th Texas Legislature, Regular Session, 2023.*

*Source: The provisions of this §61.2 adopted to be effective September 1, 1996, 21 TexReg 3705; amended to be effective December 20, 2010, 35 TexReg*

