



Responsible Office: Office of the Superintendent

BOARD POLICY 9062
ORIENTATION AND CONTINUOUS EDUCATION
OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

PURPOSE

The Board of Trustees (Board) believes in the importance of the orientation and continuous education of its members as a vital component of its governing mission. Orientation of the Board of Trustees will be conducted in order to provide important information regarding the Washoe County School District's (District) Operations as well as the roles and responsibilities of the Board of Trustees. Opportunities for continuous education will be provided to enable members of the Board of Trustees to develop and improve their governing skills.

POLICY

1. Orientation

- a. A structured orientation program will be provided annually as needed and to new members of the Board of Trustees.
- b. New Members
 - i. New members of the Board of Trustees shall participate in an orientation program to ensure effective board and individual performance, smooth the transition to the Board, and introduce them to their fiduciary responsibilities and to the culture of public education. The program is designed to familiarize new Board members with applicable state and federal laws and regulations, and the District's Board Policies and other governing documents; budget; facilities; curriculum; and other pertinent subjects. Experienced Board members, appropriate administrators, and others may be utilized as presenters.
 - ii. New members will begin their orientation as soon as able after the election or appointment results are known.
 - iii. New members are encouraged to attend additional orientation opportunities conducted by relevant state and national

organizations, such as the Nevada Association of School Boards and/or the National School Boards Association.

c. Existing Members

- i. Existing members will use the orientation process as an opportunity to refresh their knowledge of District policies and processes.

d. Continuous Education and Development

- i. In accordance with state law, each Trustee shall, in the first and third year of each term served, complete at least 6 hours of instruction in:

1. Laws relating to public records;
2. Nevada Open Meeting Law;
3. Local government employee-management relations;
4. Nevada K-12 public education system;
5. Governmental ethics;
6. Identifying and preventing violence in schools;
7. Financial management;
8. Fiduciary duties of the Board; and
9. Laws relating to employment and contracts.

- ii. Board members shall receive on-going, annual training and assessments in effective governance. Board professional development shall include:

1. Annual Board self-assessment including the Balanced Governance Model Board standards and the Balanced Governance Model Individual Board Member Characteristics.
2. Regular external Board evaluation including the Balanced Governance Model Board Standards, the Balanced Governance Model Individual Board Member Characteristics, and Balanced Governance Model Effective Board Meeting Elements.
3. Orientation training in the Balanced Governance Model, general operations and administrative functions important to the District, and statutory requirements for new Board

members. This training should be given within 30 days for the Trustees election or appointment. Seated and returning Trustees should participate in any orientation training provided to the District.

4. Periodic formative Board observation and evaluation including the Balanced Governance Model Board Standards, the Balanced Governance Model Individual Board Member Characteristics.
 - iii. Funds for participation at such meetings will be budgeted for on an annual basis.
 - e. The Superintendent shall designate appropriate staff to assist the Trustees with the requirements included in this policy, to include providing opportunities and tracking compliance.

REVISION HISTORY

| Date | Revision | Modification |
|------------|----------|---|
| 4/8/2008 | 1.0 | Adopted |
| 12/10/2013 | 2.0 | Revised: Merged with Board Policy 9011 |
| 10/25/2016 | 3.0 | Revised: to align with Balanced Governance, number changed from 9009 |
| 8/28/2018 | 4.0 | Revised: to incorporate statutory changes related to continuous education (NRS 386.327) |
| 1/12/2021 | 5.0 | Revised for consistency to Board Policy 9070 and to make changes for clarity |