

Through the "VSBA Academy", the VSBA offers individualized professional development activities designed for Virginia school boards. In addition to custom training, the following topics are offered by the VSBA:

- **Governance: Understanding the Roles and Responsibilities of the Leadership Team**
An effective leadership team is made up of members with a range of responsibilities from strategic to operational. Participants will compare and contrast the roles and responsibilities of the school board and the superintendent. Challenges faced by board members as they strive to work at the strategic level will be discussed and strategies for fulfilling their governance role will be shared.
- **Operations: Establishing Board Norms and Protocols (The Way We Do Business)**
One means of developing an effective and efficient board is to create board norms and protocols that serve as a means of communicating beliefs, processes, and best practices. In this session, participants will reflect on their current practices and protocols. Examples will be provided and reviewed with plans made for any changes and revisions to the board's current protocols.
- **Facilitated Board Self-Evaluation**
Board self-evaluation provides more than just accountability and communication. It provides an opportunity for building the best possible leadership for the division and community. The VSBA has developed a facilitated self-evaluation process that will assist your board in its continuing commitment to focus on and increase student achievement.
- **School Board Goal Setting**
One of the most important duties of a school board is to set the vision, mission and goals for the school division. This session will take the Board through a series of exercises to create a set of school board goals that focus on the governance of the school division.
- **New Superintendent: Building a New Governance Team**
This session is designed to provide time for board members and the superintendent to review governance structures and discuss board protocols and procedures. *For those divisions that utilize the VSBA Superintendent Search service, this session is included as part of the search.*
- **Data: Using Data to Make Informed Decisions**
In this session, participants will discuss what type of data they receive and how they use it to inform decisions. Emphasis will be placed on developing strategic questions and identifying data that is needed to measure progress toward goal achievement.
- **Virginia Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)**
The requirements of FOIA impact every school board meeting, from initial notice of the meeting to what must be included in the minutes. Participants will have the opportunity to explore the requirements of FOIA in depth, including crafting motions required to enter closed sessions. Please note: this training does not satisfy the legal requirement for elected school board members to receive FOIA training.

Board Development and Training

- **Strategic Planning: Developing & Implementing Focused Plans of Action**

A purposeful strategic plan is thoughtfully designed and thoroughly implemented. In this session, participants will work through a basic framework that can be used for the strategic planning process, moving from the assessment and review of student achievement and current practices to the development of long-range plans that include specific action plans. VSBA will work with your Board, Superintendent and Staff and guide them through a full strategic planning process including publishing a community survey, organizing community stakeholder groups, working with the Board, facilitating feedback meetings, working with the staff to establish action steps and providing updates to the full Board.



For more information:

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