



VSBA Board Development Training Programs

Through the "VSBA Academy," the VSBA provides individualized professional development activities tailored for Virginia school boards. In addition to customized training, the VSBA offers the following topics:

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.

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.

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.

“ I highly recommend VSBA Board Governance Training, especially for boards introducing new members. It's more than just onboarding; it's an opportunity to connect with your new school board team. ”

“ VSBA Board Governance Training has been important in our board's journey towards continuous improvement. The training sessions brings us together to discuss ways that we can improve board governance for the benefit of our school division. ”

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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.

New Superintendent: Building a New Governance Team

This session is designed to allow the board and the superintendent to review governance structures and discuss board protocols and procedures. For 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.

Strategic Planning: Developing & Implementing Focused Plans of Action

A purposeful strategic plan is thoughtfully designed and thoroughly implemented. During these sessions, participants will engage with a foundational framework applicable to the strategic planning process. This framework spans the assessment and review of student achievement and current practices, extending to the development of long-term plans that encompass specific action plans. The VSBA will collaborate with your Board, superintendent, and staff to navigate the comprehensive strategic planning process. This collaboration includes publishing a community survey, organizing community stakeholder groups, cooperating with the Board, facilitating feedback meetings, working with the staff to establish action steps, and providing updates to the full Board.

For more information regarding VSBA Board Development Programs please contact Samantha Bosserman, VSBA Deputy Executive Director at 1-800-446-8722 ext. 5

