



ED CLIPS!

Board Training During COVID-19 Pandemic

The Texas Commissioner of Education has waived the board training requirements outlined in TEC §11.159, and 19 TAC §61.1 for all districts until September 1, 2020. Waivers will be automatically granted, pursuant to the Commissioner's general waiver authority under TEC §7.056. School districts do not need to apply for these automatic waivers. See the following link for TEA guidance regarding school board governance during the pandemic: https://tea.texas.gov/sites/default/files/school_boards_04_03.pdf

Nevertheless, given that the Governor has relaxed the requirements under the Open Meetings Act, board members and superintendents may want to utilize the opportunity during this time of "social distancing" to conduct board training via live webinar. This is one way for the team of eight to stay connected during this pandemic.

Each school board member must complete continuing education on evaluating student academic performance and setting individual campus goals for early childhood literacy and mathematics and college, career, and military readiness. The purpose of the training on evaluating student academic performance is to provide research-based information to board members that is designed to support the oversight role of the board of trustees outlined in the TEC §11.1515.

The plans containing goals in early childhood, TEC §11.185, and college, career, and military readiness (CCMR), TEC §11.186, need to guide planning for the 2020-2021 school year. The goals and progress measures can be incorporated into the 2020-2021 district and campus improvement plans for board adoption prior to the first day of instruction beginning for the 2020-2021 school year. This is an extension to the previous deadline of the end of the 2019-2020 school year.

If the training is attended by an entire school board and its superintendent, the training will also satisfy the board-superintendent annual team-building session. Blake Powell, Rick Lambert and Dr. Shaun Barnett have been trained and authorized by TEA to train board members regarding the board's role in evaluating and improving student outcomes.

We are available to offer this training in person or via video conference. **To schedule a board training, contact Rick Lambert (rlambert@pyt-law.com) or Dr. Shaun Barnett (sbarnett@pyt-law.com).**