

New Mexico School Board Member Annual Training Requirements Compliance Guide—Effective 2026

2026 COMPLIANCE REMINDER FOR RETURNING MEMBERS

Section 22-5-13(C) NMSA 1978 requires returning school board members to complete at least five (5) hours of annual mandatory training covering the statutory subject areas.

For purposes of documenting annual compliance and ensuring coverage of the statutory subject areas, PED uses the five PED-approved training categories identified in the School Board Training Requirements Chart. Accordingly, beginning with calendar year 2026, returning members must:

- Complete at least five (5) hours of annual training; and
- Complete at least one (1) hour in each of the five PED-approved training categories.

Important: Completing all five hours in only one or two categories does not satisfy PED's annual compliance requirements because it does not demonstrate coverage of the statutory subject areas.

Quick Comparison

	First-Term Members	Returning Members
Annual Requirement	10 hours	5 hours
Training Distribution	At least 2 hours in each of the five PED-approved training categories	At least 1 hour in each of the five PED-approved training categories

PED-Approved Training Categories

- A. Laws, Department Policies, Ethics, Personnel, and Equity Practices
- B. Finance, Budgeting, Fiduciary Responsibilities, and Performance-Based Budgeting
- C. Legal Concepts
- D. Effective Governance Practices, Superintendent Supervision and Support
- E. Student Achievement, Support, and Safe Learning Environments

Why This Guide?

Section 22-5-13 NMSA 1978 establishes annual mandatory training and identifies the subject areas that training must cover. The PED School Board Training webpage and School Board Training Requirements Chart already communicate those requirements. This guide provides additional clarity on how PED will evaluate annual compliance beginning with calendar year 2026.

Special Rules for Newly Elected or Appointed Members

Appointed before September 1: Complete the full annual training requirement for that calendar year.

Appointed or elected after September 1: No training requirement applies until the first calendar year in which the member is officially seated.

Training completed before taking office applies only to the member's first required training year and may not be carried forward thereafter.

Key Reminders

- Training Calendar: January 1 – December 31.
- Training hours may not be banked or carried forward except as permitted for newly elected or appointed members.
- Members leaving office during the calendar year remain responsible for meeting that year's training requirements.
- Authority: Section 22-5-13 NMSA 1978 and the PED School Board Training Requirements Chart.