

# Charter Governance

## Why Great Governance Training is Essential

The governing board of an open-enrollment charter school is a corporate body that has the primary responsibility for implementing the public school program authorized by the open-enrollment charter and ensuring the performance of the students enrolled in its charter schools in accordance with the Texas Education Code (TEC) and evaluate the performance of its superintendent. All powers and duties not specifically delegated by state law to the commissioner of education or the Texas Education Agency (TEA) are reserved for the governing board of the charter school.

Texas Education Code, Chapter 12, Subchapter D defines the contractual elements that must be included in all charters granted by the state, including the requirement of the governing body of an open-enrollment charter school to accept and not delegate ultimate responsibility for the school, including the school's academic performance and financial and operational viability.

Title 19 of the Texas Administrative Code (TAC) §100.1033 (b)(14)(C) defines the non-delegable duties of the governing board of the charter school, which include:

- final authority to hear or decide employee grievances, citizen complaints, or parental concerns;
- final authority to adopt or amend the budget of the charter holder or the charter school, or to authorize the expenditure or obligation of state funds or the use of public property;
- final authority to direct the disposition or safekeeping of public records, except that the governing body may delegate this function to any person, subject to the governing body's superior right of immediate access to, control over, and possession of such records;
- final authority to adopt policies governing charter school operations;
- final authority to approve audit reports under TEC, §44.008(d); and
- the initial or final authority to select, employ, direct, evaluate, renew, non-renew, terminate, or set compensation for the superintendent or, as applicable, the administrator serving as the educational leader and chief executive officer.

## Charter Board and Officer Training Requirements

Continuing education requirements for members of charter governing boards and charter officers including chief executive officers/superintendents, central administrative officers, campus administrative officers including principals and assistant principals, and business managers are established by the commissioner of education in 19 TAC §§100.1102-1105. Governance board members and charter officials must complete all initial training requirements with one-year of their first day of service or employment, and 50% of the training requirements should be completed within the first six months of service. A total of 25% of hours earned in excess of the first-year requirement may be carried over to the subsequent year.

Position	Required Training Modules	First Year Requirements (minutes) *(TOMA and PIA minutes must be completed within the first 90 days of service)	Subsequent Years Requirements (minutes)
Governing Board Member	Charter Law	150 minutes	6 hours (360 minutes) from any of the training modules
	School Finance	60 minutes	
	Accountability, Public Funds	120 minutes	
	Accountability, Other	60 minutes	
	Health and Safety	30 minutes	
	Texas Open Meetings Act	60 minutes *	
	Public Information Act	60 minutes *	
	Evaluating and Improving Student Outcomes (EISO) or any of the modules	180 minutes	
Superintendent/Chief Executive Officer and Central Administrative Officers	Charter Law	240 minutes	15 hours (900 minutes) from any of the training modules
	School Finance	240 minutes	
	Accountability, Public Funds	240 minutes	
	Accountability, Other	240 minutes	
	Health and Safety	120 minutes	
	Texas Open Meetings Act	60 minutes	
	Public Records	120 minutes	
	Evaluating and Improving Student Outcomes (EISO) or any of the modules	540 minutes	
Campus Administrative Officers	Charter Law	90 minutes	5 hours (300 minutes) from any of the training modules
	School Finance	60 minutes	
	Accountability, Public Funds	30 minutes	
	Accountability, Other	120 minutes	
	Health and Safety	90 minutes	
	Texas Open Meetings Act	30 minutes	
	Public Records	60 minutes	
	Evaluating and Improving Student Outcomes (EISO) or any of the modules	120 minutes	

Business Officials	Charter Law	240 minutes	15 hours (900 minutes) from any of the training modules
	School Finance	480 minutes	
	Accountability, Public Funds	240 minutes	
	Accountability, Other	160 minutes	
	Health and Safety	20 minutes	
	Texas Open Meetings Act	20 minutes	
	Public Records	40 minutes	
	Any of the modules	600 minutes	