

United Way of North Carolina

EDUCATION

Education is a critical asset for all North Carolinians. It provides the keys to a bright future, greater financial stability and a good job that provides benefits.

In these economic times, we must focus our attention on proven programs that provide economic stimulus, teach positive behavior and reinforce the safety net of services needed most. By investing wisely and providing all of our children with a strong educational foundation from birth through high school and on into work and life, we can ensure North Carolina's children a place in the global economy.



Local school boards make decisions that affect children, families, teachers and the overall quality of education in their respective school districts. To perform their duties with the greatest possible transparency, accountability and student outcomes, it is vital that school board members fully understand their responsibilities, ethical requirements and the newest educational models available to drive achievement for their schools. In 1991, the General Assembly passed legislation requiring school board members to receive 12 hours of training per year (GS 115C-50). In 2009, the General Assembly passed legislation requiring board members to receive 2 hours of ethics training within the 12 hour training requirement (S.L. 2009-403).



Unfortunately, while this law still applies, a striking number of school board members from across the state fail to satisfy the requirement, leaving their school districts less equipped to handle the challenges inherent to providing every child with a quality education. Only 61% of school board members received their required training last year and only 30% of our school boards have complete compliance among their membership. Yet, there is no penalty for failure to comply with this law.

That is why United Way asks Legislators to:

- Enact a penalty for failure to comply with the yearly 12-hour state mandated training requirement for school board members (HB 348).
- Require newly elected school board members to attend "School Board 101" training within their first year of service on a local or state school board.

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