

# Be the Best School Board Member You Can Be

## During The COVID-19 Crisis



ARKANSAS  
SCHOOL BOARDS  
ASSOCIATION

### 1. Practice good governance.

As the situation changes daily, using best practices in your role as a member of the governing team is more important than ever. Decisions need to be made, bills still need to be paid, and the staff, students, and community need your consistent and stable presence.

### 2. Support your Superintendent.

Your superintendent must manage your district right now. Superintendents are trained and equipped for this. Support them by adhering to the chain of command and remaining in close communication as a team.

### 3. Unify your message.

It is important for the board and superintendent to share a consistent, positive, and calm message with your community. The superintendent should be the voice of the district with the board supporting their message. Do your best to be factual and reassuring.

### 4. Stay updated and educated on emergency mandates.

In this emergency our local, state, and federal governments have been acting swiftly with executive orders that directly apply to your school board. Read and have a clear understanding of emergency measure changes to the Open Meetings Act and other laws governing board meetings. Contact ASBA's legal team, [Kristen Garner](#) or [Lucas Harder](#), at 800-482-1212 for up-to-date information on your board's ability to meet in-person or virtually. Information is also posted on our website, <https://arsba.org>.

### 5. Be flexible and willing to learn and adapt to new virtual meeting venues.

With the importance of social distancing and the temporary suspension of some in-person meeting requirements, boards will need to find new ways to meet via the internet in one of the many digital venues available. For some, this will be a new challenge. Be open to change!

### 6. Encourage your team.

This is likely not the first time your team tackled a crisis together, nor will it be the last. The COVID-19 pandemic has caused fear and anxiety among many, perhaps even your board colleagues. Reach out, take care of each other, and be a friend.