



Arkansas Department of Education

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Powers and Duties of the Board of Trustees and Superintendent of the Arkansas School for the Deaf and Blind

I. Powers and Duties of the Board

1. The Board of Trustees of the Arkansas School for the Deaf and Blind shall consist of five (5) members appointed by the Governor, subject to the confirmation of the Senate. *Ark. Code Ann. § 6-43-101(b).*
2. (Members of the Board of Trustees of the Arkansas School for the Deaf and Blind appointed by the Governor under the provisions of this section shall: (A) Possess the qualifications of an elector; and (B) Reside in the State of Arkansas. *Ark. Code Ann. § 6-43-101(c).*
3. The term of office for each member shall commence on January 15 and shall end on January 14 of the fifth year following the year in which the regular term commenced. *Ark. Code Ann. § 6-43-101(d).*
4. Any vacancies arising in the membership of the Board of Trustees of the Arkansas School for the Deaf and Blind for any reason other than the expiration of the regular terms for which the members were appointed shall be filled by the appointment of the Governor and shall be thereafter effective until the expiration of the regular terms. *Ark. Code Ann. § 6-43-101(e).*
5. Before entering upon his or her respective duties, each Board of Trustees of the Arkansas School for the Deaf and Blind member shall take and subscribe and file in the office of the Secretary of State an oath to support the United States Constitution and the Arkansas Constitution and to faithfully perform the duties of the office upon which he or she is about to enter and that he or she will not be or become interested, directly or indirectly, in any contract made by the Board of Trustees of the Arkansas School for the Deaf and Blind. (2)(A) Any violation of the oath shall be a Class B misdemeanor. (B) Any contract entered into in violation of the oath shall be void. *Ark. Code Ann. § 6-43-101(f).*
6. The board shall meet at least monthly and shall fix a regular date for the monthly meeting. *Ark. Code Ann. § 6-43-101(g).*
7. Each member of the Board of Trustees of the Arkansas School for the Deaf and Blind may receive expense reimbursement in accordance with § 25-16-901 et seq. *Ark. Code Ann. § 6-43-101(h).*
8. The Governor shall have the power to remove any member of the Board of Trustees of the Arkansas School for the Deaf and Blind before the expiration of his or her term for cause after notice and hearing. *Ark. Code Ann. § 6-43-101(i).*

9. The Board of Trustees of the Arkansas School for the Deaf and Blind created in Ark. Code § 6-43-101 is charged with the management and control of the Arkansas School for the Deaf and Blind. *Ark. Code Ann. § 6-43-102(a)*.
10. The board shall exercise such powers of supervision and control as are not specifically reserved to the Superintendent of the Arkansas School for the Deaf and Blind. *Ark. Code Ann. § 6-43-102(b)*.
11. The board may adopt policies for the governance of the school as deemed necessary and in consultation with the Secretary of the Department of Education. *Ark. Code Ann. § 6-43-102(c)*.
12. The board shall: (1) Keep a record of all board proceedings; and (2) Adopt formal operating procedures. *Ark. Code Ann. § 6-43-102(d)*.
13. The board, in consultation with the Secretary of the Department of Education, shall select the school superintendents. The superintendent shall be selected based on his or her previous training and qualifications relevant to the education of students enrolled in the school. *Ark. Code Ann. § 6-43-103(c)*.
14. The board may recommend to the secretary termination, suspension, or other discipline permitted by law of the superintendent. The secretary may terminate, suspend, or otherwise discipline the superintendent in accordance with applicable policies and laws. *Ark. Code Ann. § 6-43-103(c)*.
15. The board may, in consultation with the secretary, require the superintendent or other school officials to reside on the school campus. *Ark. Code Ann. § 6-43-103(d)*.
16. The Superintendent of the Arkansas School for the Deaf and Blind may select employees of the Arkansas School for the Deaf and Blind in consultation with the Secretary of the Department of Education in accordance with state law, reporting the same for approval to the Board of Trustees of the Arkansas School for the Deaf and Blind at the next regular meeting of the board. *Ark. Code Ann. § 6-43-104(a)*.
17. The Board of Trustees of the Arkansas School for the Deaf and Blind may adopt a student attendance policy necessary to ensure compliance with the purpose and function of the school. *Ark. Code Ann. § 6-43-105(b)*.
18. The Board of Trustees of the Arkansas School for the Deaf and Blind may adopt an admission policy, including requirements for admission to the Arkansas School for the Deaf and Blind, that is necessary to ensure compliance with the purpose and function of the Arkansas School for the Deaf and Blind. *Ark. Code Ann. § 6-43-107*.
19. The Board of Trustees of the Arkansas School for the Deaf and Blind may dismiss a student for disciplinary violations upon recommendation by the Superintendent of the Arkansas School for the Deaf and Blind and in accordance with school policy and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, 20 U.S.C. § 1400 et seq., as it existed on January 1, 2025. *Ark. Code Ann. § 6-43-108*.
20. Section 21-8-304 relating to nepotism, ethics, or conflicts of interest that are applicable to state agencies and state employees generally shall be applicable to the Arkansas School for the Deaf and Blind and to the Board of Trustees of the Arkansas School for the Deaf and

Blind and employees of the Arkansas School for the Deaf and Blind and the Board of Trustees of the Arkansas School for the Deaf and Blind. *Ark. Code Ann. § 6-43-114.*

21. The Board of Trustees of the Arkansas School for the Deaf and Blind may take and hold in trust for the use of the Arkansas School for the Deaf and Blind any lands conveyed or devised, and any money or other personal property given or bequeathed, to be applied to the benefit of the school. *Ark. Code Ann. § 6-43-122(a).*

II. Powers and Duties of the Superintendent

1. The immediate conduct and management of the Arkansas School for the Deaf and Blind, school employees, and students enrolled in the school shall be entrusted to the superintendent. *Ark. Code Ann. § 6-43-103(b).*
2. The superintendent shall: (1) Have a superintendent license; and (2) Be responsible for the management and operation of the school. *Ark. Code Ann. § 6-43-103(e).*
3. The Superintendent of the Arkansas School for the Deaf and Blind may select employees of the Arkansas School for the Deaf and Blind in consultation with the Secretary of the Department of Education in accordance with state law, reporting the same for approval to the Board of Trustees of the Arkansas School for the Deaf and Blind at the next regular meeting of the board. *Ark. Code Ann. § 6-43-104(a).*
4. May make special allowance available to employees who provide other duties related to school-sponsored activities or leadership teams with approval from the Superintendent of the Arkansas School for the Deaf and Blind and the Secretary of the Department of Education. *Ark. Code Ann. § 6-43-116(a)(5).*
5. Unless otherwise approved by the Board of Trustees of the Arkansas School for the Deaf and Blind, any funds resulting from the sale of objects made by students at the Arkansas School for the Deaf and Blind shall be placed in an appropriated cash fund to be used for student-related school purposes as determined by the Superintendent of the Arkansas School for the Deaf and Blind. *Ark. Code Ann. § 6-43-120.*
6. No individual, student enrolled in the Arkansas School for the Deaf and Blind, or individual employed by the school shall be boarded, lodged, or in any manner provided for during the vacation of the school unless the Superintendent of the Arkansas School for the Deaf and Blind grants prior written approval for purposes of participating in a school event, an event occurring on the school's campus, or due to an emergency circumstance as defined by school policy. *Ark. Code Ann. § 6-43-121(a).*