

Assembly Bill 640 Board Training Complete Legal Requirements

Fact Sheet

FCMAT



**FISCAL CRISIS & MANAGEMENT
ASSISTANCE TEAM**

1300 17th Street – CITY CENTRE
Bakersfield, CA 93301-4533

Background and Introduction

Assembly Bill (AB) 640 (Muratsuchi), Chapter 618, Statutes of 2025, establishes a statewide requirement to strengthen governance and fiscal knowledge among local educational agency (LEA) governing boards. The bill adds Education Codes (EC) 35220 through 35223 and directs the Fiscal Crisis and Management Assistance Team (FCMAT) to develop a standardized training curriculum for LEA governing board members.

The required curriculum focuses on two critical areas:

1. Laws governing the development and approval of LEA budgets to support student achievement.
2. Laws related to fiscal penalties for noncompliance.

In developing this curriculum, FCMAT consulted with the California Department of Education (CDE) and gathered input from subject-matter experts to ensure accuracy and relevance. As Assembly Member Muratsuchi stated:

Governing board and body members are charged with guiding the academic and socioemotional wellbeing of our students, as well as are stewards of billions of dollars in public funds; receiving training on the public education governance laws they are required to follow is imperative.

Consistent with this purpose, AB 640 aims to improve fiscal accountability, increase board members' competency, strengthen understanding of fiduciary duties, and promote responsible stewardship and financial decision-making in support of student outcomes.

For additional information regarding the statutory training requirements, see [Assembly Bill 640, Chapter 618, Statutes 2025](#).

Training Requirements

Governing Board Members

All regular LEA governing board members are subject to the AB 640 training requirement. This includes governing board members of school districts, county offices of education (COEs), charter schools, and entities that manage charter schools.

AB 640 states that regular members of the following governing bodies are subject to the training requirements:

- A school district governing board.
- A county board of education.
- A governing body of a charter school or of an entity that manages a charter school.

The requirement applies only to regular board members as defined in Education Codes [1000](#), [35012](#), or [47604.2](#).

Depending on when a board member begins or ends their service, different deadlines for and exemptions from completing the training may apply, as shown in Table 1.

Table 1: AB 640 Training Deadlines.

Situation	AB 640 Training Deadline
Serving on April 1, 2027 and term extends beyond April 1, 2028.	Complete by April 1, 2028
Serving on April 1, 2027, but term ends before April 1, 2028.	No training required
First elected or appointed on or after April 1, 2027.	Complete within 1 year of starting service
Returning after a break in service (nonconsecutive term).	Complete within 1 year of beginning the new term
Continuing to serve in a new term (consecutive terms) after completing AB 640 training.	No additional training required
Completed the California School Boards Association's Master's in Governance program and can provide proof of completion.	No additional training required

LEA Responsibilities

Each year, an LEA is required to give its officials who are subject to the training requirement information about training opportunities.

Local educational agencies are also required to maintain records that document each official's completion of the training. These records must include the date the training requirement was satisfied and the name of the entity that provided the training. Training records must be retained for at least five years after the official completes the training.

Eligible Training Providers

To comply with AB 640, all training must use the curriculum developed by FCMAT and be delivered by a qualified provider. LEAs may provide the training directly or arrange for training through an eligible external organization. Training providers must possess relevant expertise in the subject matter and have experience supporting the type of LEA being trained.

To serve as an AB 640 training provider, one must do the following:

- Use the state-required curriculum developed by FCMAT to provide training on K-12 public education school finance laws and related topics required by AB 640.
- Use trainers with demonstrable experience in the subject matter for which they provide instruction.
- If training is provided by an outside organization, the organization must:

- Have as one of its main functions supporting LEAs with technical assistance and expertise in public school finance laws, including the creation and approval of an LEA budget and fiscal penalties for noncompliance pursuant to EC 35220(b).
- Have demonstrable experience providing technical assistance and expertise to LEAs.
- Employ trainers who have demonstrable experience in the applicable training topics.
- To ensure training is relevant to audience served:
 - School district and COE officials may only receive training from providers that have demonstrable experience supporting school districts and COEs.
 - Charter school governing board members and governing bodies of entities that manage charter schools may only receive training from providers that have demonstrable experience supporting charter schools.
- An LEA or a consortium of LEAs may use:
 - Qualified LEA employees who have demonstrable expertise in the applicable topic.
 - Contracted legal counsel who has demonstrable expertise in the applicable topic.
 - Eligible external providers that meet the statutory requirements.
 - FCMAT.
 - A nonprofit statewide education association led by officials who govern school districts and/or county offices of education.
 - Self-study materials and assessments offered by a qualified provider.

Providers have flexibility in how to deliver the training. The content of the curriculum can be developed to be delivered in-person, online, or at home.

AB 640 Curriculum

The law requires that the AB 640 curriculum be delivered in four hours or less. Because school districts, charter schools and charter management organizations, and COEs all have unique characteristics and different organizational structures, FCMAT has developed three separate curricula tailored to each LEA type.

The three curricula share common foundational content, but each version includes material specific to the governance, fiscal oversight, and operational responsibilities of the applicable LEA type. Training providers may adapt the pace, emphasis, and instructional approach as needed for their audience, provided that all required content is covered.

To help providers plan and deliver the training, a sample four-hour agenda for each LEA type is available on the [AB 640 training page of the FCMAT website](#).