

Ethics Assembly Bill 2158

November 14, 2024 Board Study Session
Sage Oak Charter Schools



AB 2158

The purpose of AB 2158 is to expand the definition of "local agency officials" to expressly include the governing board and members of school districts, county offices of education, and charter schools. Since these public officials make important decisions that may carry ethical implications, the State Legislature has determined that they should receive ethics training to the same extent as other local agency officials.

1. Each local agency official who, as of January 1, 2025, is a member of the governing board of a school district, a county board of education, or the governing body of a charter school, except for officials whose term of office ends before January 1, 2026, **should receive training in ethics before January 1, 2026.**

Ethics Training Requirement

An ethics course must meet the criteria in Government Code section 52335 to satisfy the ethics training requirement. Those requirements are:

- The course must consist of **at least two hours** of training on general ethics principles and ethics laws relevant to the official's public service.
- The course must **cover the core content** outlined in Government Code section 53234(d) and California Code of Regulations title 2, section 18371.
- The course must be developed **in consultation** with the Fair Political Practices Commission and the Attorney General.
- The course provider must provide the participants with **proof of participation**.

Options for Ethics Course

Option 1

The Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC) has published online training for local agency officials that satisfy the ethics training requirements. The course is self-paced.

Option 2

Board Study Session with Legal Counsel, two-hour requirement.

Options for Ethics Course

Option 1

The Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC) has published online training for local agency officials that satisfy the ethics training requirements. The course is self-paced.

- Provides case studies of different types of conflicts of interest
- There are 7 lessons with “check your understanding” questions at the end of each lesson
- There is no final assessment
- You can log in and out, and start where you left off
- You must spend a minimum of 2 hours on the course. The time is logged and if you click through the whole course in under 2 hours, you will be required to do additional training.
- When you create an account, all agencies can be listed on your account. The custodian of records at each charter is required to keep a copy of the certificate on file. The proof of completion will list all charter organizations on one line.

Options for Ethics Course

Option 2

Board Study Session with Legal Counsel, two-hour requirement.

- Would the Board like to explore this option?
- If yes, would the Board like look into whether or not the 2 hours could be broken up over multiple shorter study session?

Public Service Ethics Education Online Proof of Participation Certificate

Date of Completion: Sep 23, 2024

Training Time*: 2 hr. 8 min.

This course is an overview course on all public service ethics issues necessary to satisfy the requirements of Article 2.4 of Chapter 2 of Part 1 of Division 2 of Title 5 of the Government Code, including the following:

- Laws relating to personal financial gain by public servants, including, but not limited to, laws prohibiting bribery and conflict-of-interest laws.
- Laws relating to claiming perquisites ("perks") of office, including, but not limited to, gift and travel restrictions, prohibitions against the use of public resources for personal or political purposes, prohibitions against gifts of public funds, mass mailing restrictions, and prohibitions against acceptance of free or discounted transportation by transportation companies.
- Government transparency laws, including, but not limited to, financial interest disclosure requirements and open government laws.
- Laws relating to fair processes, including, but not limited to, common law bias prohibitions, due process requirements, incompatible offices, competitive bidding requirements for public contracts, and disqualification from participating in decisions affecting family members; and
- General ethical principles relating to public service.

The Fair Political Practices Commission and Attorney General have reviewed this course for course sufficiency and accuracy.



By signing below, I certify that I fully reviewed the content of the entire online AB 1234 course approved by the Attorney General and Fair Political Practices Commission and am entitled to claim two hours of public service ethics law and principles credit.

Emily Horta

Participant Signature

Emily Horta

Participant Name

Sage Oak Charter Schools

Agency Name

*NOTE TO PARTICIPANT: Please provide a copy of this proof of participation to the custodian for such records at your agency. In addition, we recommend you make a copy of this proof of participation for your own records to retain for at least five years. To preserve the integrity of the online certification process; **these certificates are only available upon completing the online session.** * To satisfy AB 1234 requirements, this certificate must reflect that the public official spent two hours or more reviewing the materials presented in the online course. If the certificate reflects less than two hours, the participant should have on file additional certificates demonstrating that the official has satisfied the entire two hour requirement.*