

BOARD MEMBER QUALIFICATIONS

The Constitution of the State of Georgia generally prohibits anyone from holding public office who is:

- (1) Not a registered voter;
- (2) Has been convicted of a felony involving moral turpitude, unless the person's civil rights have been restored; or
- (3) Holds public funds illegally or is a defaulter for any federal, state, county, municipal, or school system taxes required of such officeholder or candidate if such person has been finally adjudicated by a court of competent jurisdiction to owe those taxes, but such ineligibility may be removed at any time by full payment thereof, or by making payments to the tax authority pursuant to a payment plan, or under such other conditions as the General Assembly may provide by general law.

Additionally, qualifications have been imposed by various Statutes adopted by the General Assembly in the State of Georgia. These qualifications include the following:

A Board Member:

- (4) Must be a citizen of the State of Georgia;
- (5) Must be at least 21 years of age;
- (6) Must be a resident of the County and the Education District in which there is a vacancy for the past 12 months;
- (7) Must not be the holder or receiver of public money of this State or any County thereof who has refused or failed when called upon after reasonable opportunity to account for and pay over the same to the proper officer;
- (8) May not hold another County office at the same time he/she is a Member of the Clarke County Board of Education;
- (9) May not be employed in any capacity by the Clarke County Board of Education, but he/she may be an employee of another local Board of Education;
- (10) May not serve on the governing body of a private elementary or secondary educational institution;
- (11) May not be an employee of the State Department of Education or a member of the State Board of Education;

- 12) May not hold “any office of profit or trust under the Government of the United States” (other than the position of postmaster or membership in the military reserves), except that a Board Member may accept temporary appointments to various commissions, panels, or other fact-finding or policy-making agencies appointed by the President;
- 13) May not be disqualified by state law which disqualifies from public office "persons of unsound mind and persons who, from advanced stage of body infirmity, are unfit to discharge the duties of the office;”
- 14) May not have an immediate family member sitting on the Clarke County Board of Education or serving as the Clarke County School District superintendent or as a principal, assistant principal, or system administrative staff in the Clarke County School District. For purposes hereof, the term “immediate family member” means a spouse, child, sibling, or parent or the spouse of a child, sibling, or parent whose employment as the superintendent or as a principal, assistant principal, or system administrative staff began on or after January 1, 2010;
- 15) Must satisfy the requirements of O.C.G.A. 20-2-51(e), which provides no person shall be eligible for election as a member of a local Board of Education unless he/she:
 - (a) Has read and understands the code of ethics and the conflict of interest provision applicable to members of the local Board of Education and has agreed to abide by them;
 - (b) Has agreed to annually disclose compliance with the State Board of Education’s Policy on training for members of local Boards of Education, the code of ethics of the local Board of Education and the conflict of interest provision applicable to members of the local Boards of Education; and
 - (c) Files an affidavit with the officer before whom such person has qualified for such election prior to or at the time of qualifying, which affidavit shall affirm that he or she meets all of the qualifications required in (a) and (b) above; and
- 16) Must not be on the National Sexual Offender Registry or the State Sexual Offender Registry.