

AASBO Professional Certification Program

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AASBO Certification Program

The Arkansas Association of School Business Officials (AASBO) Certification Program, administered through a Certification Committee of AASBO members, provides voluntary as well as state department mandated professional in-service training for persons engaged in school business administration.

School business officials who have appropriate experience, who receive satisfactory recommendations, and who complete the required course work are eligible for certification. Participating individuals will receive as a Certified Arkansas School Business Official (CASBO) a final official certificate upon completion of the program.

It is hoped that such documented participation in this program will be recognized throughout the state by superintendents and boards as important factors in assessing the professional growth and worthiness of individuals in key business positions in Arkansas schools.

Certification is provided for a period of three years. Once initial certification is granted, three (3) upper level courses (those numbered 200 and above) must be completed during that three year period in order for the certificate to be renewed.

For current information on contacts for the CASBO program (such as the current Registrar or the Certification Committee members) go to <http://casbo.info> on the internet and follow the links to the certification program site.

Certification Requirements

Candidates for certification as a **Certified Arkansas School Business Official (CASBO)** must meet the following:

- (1) Be responsible for one or more areas of school business.
- (2) Have at least three years experience as a school business official.
- (3) Submit a letter of recommendation from the local school superintendent or school board president that addresses six specific areas concerning the candidate: integrity, character, ethical behavior, ability to supervise others, follow-through on assigned responsibilities, and competence on the job.
- (4) Complete the required coursework.
- (5) Submit an application to the AASBO Certification Registrar (see the web at <http://casbo.info> for information).
- (6) Be a member of the Arkansas Association of School Business Officials at the time of certification.
- (7) Course work for certification must be taken within a five-year period.

Course Requirements

Initial Certification. In order to meet the course requirements for a **Certified Arkansas School Business Official (CASBO)**, fifteen (15) courses must be successfully completed. Ten (10) of the following BASIC courses are required:

- School Finance 101A
- School Finance 101B
- School Finance 102
- Human Resources 101
- Human Resources 102
- Purchasing and Supply 101
- Management 101
- Maintenance and Operations 101
- Maintenance and Operations 102
- Food Services 101
- Transportation 101
- Information Management 101
- Risk Management 101
- School Management 101
- School Management 102

BASIC courses are denoted with an "*" in the curriculum section.

Five additional courses, as **electives**, must be taken as elected. At least three (3) of these must be numbered 200 and above.

Affiliate Course Work. Up to three credits of course work obtained from SASBO (Southeastern Association of School Business Officials) or ASBOI (Association of School Business Officials International) offerings may be counted as electives for initial CASBO certification.

Certification Renewal. In order to renew the **CASBO Certification**, a candidate for renewal must file an application with the registrar, and three (3) upper level courses (those numbered 200 and above) must be completed within a three year period, excluding affiliate courses. These may be repeated upper level courses taken during the initial certification period or previous renewal certification periods.

Re-Certification. In order to recertify after an initial or renewal certificate has expired, the candidate for recertification must file an application for recertification, and have completed two (2) of the required three (3) upper level courses (those numbered 200 and above) within a three year period from the date of initial or renewal certification, and must complete the third of the three upper level courses within a calendar year of the expiration date of the prior certificate. Failure to recertify in a timely manner will require repeating the initial certification process.

Participation and Fees

Registration for each class is generally \$25.00 for AASBO members and \$35.00 for non-members.

There must be a minimum of ten participants if a course is taught. This minimum may be waived if special circumstances dictate.

AASBO will attempt to offer courses at various locations throughout the state as the demand warrants. Fees for special or regional classes will be set on a case by case basis.

Course Number Structure
Prefixes (such as "SF" and "MO")
denote the category of the course.

The first digit denotes the "level" of the course:

1 – basic courses

2 – intermediate courses

3 – advanced courses

4 – supplemental courses (including affiliate courses)

The second digit denotes the "type" of course:

0 – general courses
1 – application specific courses
The third digit (if not “0”) denotes courses that are usually taken in sequence.
An alpha character suffix denotes related courses (A, B, C, D, etc.).

School Finance Curriculum

Course content is listed below for regularly scheduled courses. Any courses approved by the Arkansas Department of Education for Act 730 (ASAP) requirements will have more specific content as approved by the ADE. Electives include, but are not limited to, the classes listed.

***SF 101A** – School Revenue
(Content approved by the ADE for **initial** Act 730 training)
- Legal basis
- Local sources of revenue
- State sources of revenue
- Federal sources of revenue
- Review of budget/annual financial report

***SF101B** – School Expenditures
(Content approved by the ADE for **initial** Act 730 training)
- Legal basis
- Expenditure by fund
- Expenditure by function
- Expenditure by object
- Review of budget/annual financial report

***SF 102** – School Account Coding
(may substitute **SM101** for CASBO)
(Content approved by the ADE for **initial** and **annual** Act 730 training)
- Legal basis
- Provisions of Handbook 2R² and AFRB specifications
- Fund specific code restrictions & requirements
- Coding structure
- Other elements

SF 103 – Annual Financial Report/Budget
- Legal basis
- AFR/Budget preparation and compilation
- Budgeting as a tool
- Other budget considerations

SF 113 – Applications – Annual Financial Report/Budget

SF 104 – Basic Accounting Procedures
- Analysis of double entry accounting
- Analysis of transactions

- Preparing and recording transactions

SF 114 – Applications – Basic Accounting

SF 201 – Activity Funds
- Legal basis
- Principles of activity funds
- Management of funds
- Accounting provisions

SF 211 – Applications – Activity Fund Methods & Practice

SF 202 – Auditing
- Legal basis
- Developing internal controls
- Maintaining documentation
- Post audit procedures

SF 203 – Investing School Funds and Borrowing

- Legal basis
- Investment instruments
- Borrowing options
- Collateralization and record keeping

SF 301 – Budget Analysis
- Revenue analysis
- Expenditure analysis
- Resource analysis

SF222 – Federal Funds Finance
- Federal fund revenues
- Federal fund expenditures
- Federal fund accounting & reporting

SF 401 – Current Trends/Updates in School Finance

SF 402 – Affiliate Course Credit

Human Resources

***HR 101** – Introduction to Human Resources
- Legal issues
- Recruitment, selection, and placement
- Job description and training
- Evaluation
- Personnel records

***HR 102** – Employee Compensation
- Legal basis
- Salary and wages
- Benefits and deductions
- Payroll records

HR 112A – Applications – Payroll

HR 112B – Applications – Benefits

HR 113 – Applications – Attendance and Leave

HR 201 – Compliance Issues
- Labor issues
- Discrimination issues
- Compensation issues
- Workplace safety issues

HR 202 – Benefit Issues
- Selection
- Implementation
- HIPPA
- Education and awareness
- Limitations

HR 401 – Current Trends/Updates in Human Resources

HR 402 – Affiliate Course Credit

Purchasing and Supply Management Curriculum

***PS 101** – Introduction to Purchasing and Supply Management
(Content approved by the ADE for **initial** Act 730 training)
- Legal basis
- Purchasing policy
- Purchasing procedures
- Purchase orders and requisitions
- Other purchasing considerations
- Purchasing ethics

PS 111 – Applications – Purchasing Methods & Practice

PS 202 – Inventory and Fixed Asset Control
- Legal basis
- Fixed assets
- Supplies and materials
- GASB 34 fixed assets considerations

PS 212 – Applications – Fixed Assets

PS 213 – Applications – Inventory and Warehousing

PS 401 – Current Trends & Updates in Purchasing

PS 402 – Affiliate Course Credit

Maintenance and Operations Curriculum

***MO 101** – Introduction to Plant Operations
- Staff and scheduling considerations
- Custodial standards

- Facility inspection and supply management
- Community use of facilities

***MO 102 – Introduction to Plant Maintenance**

- Policies and standards for maintenance
- Scheduling of funds, staff and contracted services
- Preventive, recurring, and emergency maintenance
- Maintenance records

MO 201 – School Plant Planning and Construction

- Legal basis
- Educational standards for sites, buildings, and equipment
- Facility needs and usage
- Design, construction, and renovation

MO 202 – Energy Management

- Legal basis
- Energy surveys and cost analysis
- Management plans
- Performance contracts

MO 203 – Environmental Management

- Air quality
- Asbestos
- Lead
- MSDS (Material Safety Data Sheets)

MO 401 – Current Trends and Updates in Maintenance and Operations

MO 402 – Affiliate Course Credit

Food Services Curriculum

***FS 101 – Introduction to Food Services**

- General regulations covering food service programs
- District-operated programs vs. contracted programs
- Food service accounting
- Staffing, supervising and in-service

FS 102 – Food Sources and Purchasing

- Commodities
- Market sources
- Bidding

FS 202 – Kitchen Maintenance and Operations

- Health codes
- Fire codes
- Equipment
- Layout and design

FS 401 – Current Trends and Updates in Food Service

Transportation Curriculum

***TR 101 – Introduction to Transportation**

- Legal basis
- Policy and regulations
- Fleet
- Routes and scheduling
- Personnel

TR 201 – Transportation Personnel

- Staff selection
- Training and licensure
- Supervision
- Evaluation

TR 301 – Transportation Management

- Student behavior management
- Public relations
- Activity trips
- School relations

TR 302 – Fleet Maintenance and Management

- Purchasing
- Supplies
- Safety and Inspection
- Bus Maintenance
- Records

TR 401 – Current Trends and Updates in Transportation

TR 402 – Affiliate Course Credit

Information Management Curriculum

***IM 101 – Introduction to Information Management**

- Planning, scheduling and control
- Information system staff and functions
- Processing modes
- Current technologies

IM 201 – Software Concepts

- Word processing
- Spreadsheets
- Databases
- Integrated systems

IM 211 – Applications – Reports and Queries

IM 212 – Applications – Cognos Report Writing & Data Warehouse

IM 213 – Applications – Data Import/Export and Management

IM 301 – Information Integrity

- Annual School Report Card
- Statewide Information System
- Cycle Data Verification
- District Web-Site Reporting

IM 401 – Current Trends and Updates in Information Management

IM 402 – Affiliate Course Credit

Risk Management Curriculum

***RM 101 – Introduction to Risk Management**

- Legal basis
- Determining risk exposures
- Types of insurance
- Claims and reporting records
- Insurance alternatives

RM 201 – Review and Selection of Insurance Programs

- Legal basis
- Determination of needs
- Developing bid specifications
- Bid tabulations and analysis

RM 202 – Health and Safety Programs

- Evaluating the school plant
- Evaluating safety conditions
- Developing health and safety plans

RM 301 – Crisis Management

- School emergencies
- Community emergencies
- Developing emergency contingency plans

RM 401 – Current Trends and Updates in Risk Management

RM 402 – Affiliate Course Credit

School Management Curriculum

***SM 101 – Basic Management Principles (may substitute SF102)**

- Types of organizations and managers
- Leadership skills
- Planning techniques
- Communication
- Evaluation of management

***SM 102 – School Ethics and Audit Compliance**

(Content approved by the ADE for initial Act 730 training)

- Legal Basis for School Management – References to Laws and Codes
- School Board Structure

- School Board Member Rights & Responsibilities
- Superintendent Rights & Responsibilities
- Audit Requirements – Cooperation, Compliance, Reporting
- Common or Frequent Audit Findings

SM 201 – Effective Communication

- Integrity of information and data
- Organization and presentation of material
- Communications with board and staff
- News releases
- Successful interview practices

SM 301 – School Business Administration and the Law

- Legal basis
- Court decisions
- Arkansas code
- Resources

SM 302 – Administering a School Election

- Legal basis
- Timelines and requirements
- Bond / millage issues and options
- Millage election strategies
- Board member election issues
- Dealing with the Election Commission

SM 401 – Current Trends and Updates in School Management

SM401A – Current Issues and Updates in School Management (Content approved by the ADE for **initial** and **annual** Act 730 training)

- Recent Changes in Legislation
- Recent Rules proposed and/or approved by State Board of Education
- Recent Attorney General’s Opinions
- Pending or Filed Litigation
- Funding predictions
- Potential Federal Legislative impact
- Potential State Legislative impact
- Proposed or Passed Constitutional Amendments

SM 402 – Affiliate Course Credit

Panel Discussions

Panel discussion classes are designed to provide the participants with an opportunity for dialogue and sharing of

various ways of approaching school business responsibilities and tasks. Panels will usually be composed of a number of practicing school business officials who demonstrate a potential to contribute from their experience to the topic being discussed. The panel discussions will usually be moderated by a school business official, using a general outline so as to assure that all relevant aspects of the topic are addressed during the class. Sharing will be encouraged, including the provision of handouts, the demonstration of methods, and question and answer periods.

Panel Discussion classes will be indicated with the prefix “PD” and the course level “3”, numbered as they are developed. (Example: PD 301 – “How Do You Do...School Activity Funds.”)

AASBO Role in ADE Requirements

AASBO has been named as a definite provider of courses to meet the requirements of **Act 730 of 2005**, and will provide courses to provide training for school business officials as determined by current rules.

The AASBO Registrar will provide documentation of initial training and annual training courses to the Department after each session in which they are provided, listing each school business official’s name, social security number, position, school district, and courses taken.

Classes may be offered in regional areas, or through distance learning opportunities, to provide for the level of participation that will be needed at various times.

AASBO is also participating in **Act 1591**, which requires new general business managers to be CASBO certified or enrolled in the program.

See our web page for more information.