



The Colorado State Board of Education Duties and Related Costs

Since 1876, the law of Colorado has vested oversight of public schools in the State Board of Education. The State Board of Education is comprised of seven members elected by the constituents of the seven Congressional Districts, or, when a state board member leaves the board prior to serving their full six-year term, a vacancy committee of the member's political party votes on a replacement.

Article 9, Section 1 of the Colorado Constitution provides:

The general supervision of the public schools of the state shall be vested in a board of education whose powers and duties shall be as now or hereafter prescribed by law. Said board shall consist of a member from each congressional district of the state and, if the total number of such congressional districts is an even number, one additional member, and said members shall be elected as hereinafter provided. The members of said board shall be elected by the registered electors of the state, voting at general elections, in such manner and for such terms as may be by law prescribed; provided, that provisions may be made by law for election of a member from each congressional district of the state by the electors of such district; and provided, further, that each member from a congressional district of the state shall be a qualified elector of such district. If the total number of congressional districts of the state is an even number, the additional member of said board shall be elected from the state at large. The members of said board shall serve without compensation, but they shall be reimbursed for any necessary expenses incurred by them in performing their duties as members of said board.

Colorado Revised Statutes 22-2-105(3) further provides that the state board members shall serve for a six-year term and serve without compensation but shall be reimbursed for any necessary expenses incurred by them in the performance of their duties as members.

Colorado Revised Statutes 22-2-105(4) requires the state board to meet at least quarterly and at such other times as may be necessary. Title 11 of the Colorado Revised Statutes 22-2-106 through 109 and 117 lists the state board's responsibilities.

State Board's Expenses

The expenses for which the state board members seek reimbursement on a monthly basis fall into several categories: travel (in state and out of state, mileage, meals and lodging), attendance at official functions, and reimbursement for office related expenses. The costs from board member to board member vary primarily based on the location of the board member's domicile. For example, the board members representing the 3rd and 5th

Congressional Districts are higher than those of the 1st and 2nd because of the proximity to Denver where most meetings are held. The chart below shows the approximate mileage and travel details from the board member’s domicile to the state board office. Mileage is reimbursed at a standard percentage designated by the State of Colorado.

Estimated Mileage from Elected Official’s Domicile to Denver SBE Office

1 st CD Lisa Escárcega	Denver, CO to Denver, CO 20.8 miles roundtrip
2 nd CD Angelika Schroeder	Boulder, CO to Denver, CO 56 miles roundtrip
3 rd CD Joyce Rankin	Carbondale, CO to Denver, CO 340 miles roundtrip
4 th CD Deb Scheffel	Parker, CO to Denver, CO 52 miles roundtrip
5 th CD Steve Durham	Colorado Springs, CO to Denver, CO 145 miles round trip
6 th CD Rebecca McClellan	Centennial, CO to Denver, CO 35 miles roundtrip
7 th CD Karla Esser	Lakewood, CO to Denver, CO 32 miles roundtrip

Estimated Meals and Travel

State Board Members do not have any set daily reimbursement while traveling on official business. In general, expenses run less than \$40.00 per day excluding mileage. Board members only incur expenses for meals if they are attending a board function or are on board business.

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