

Washington State's Open Government Trainings Act (ESB 5964) became law in 2014 and requires all school board members to complete training on the Open Public Meetings Act (OPMA), Public Records Act (PRA) and records retention. The training must be completed by all current office holders or completed within 90 days of taking office following appointment or election of a new director. Refresher trainings must be completed by each school director every four years that they remain in office. Additional information can be found at <http://www.atg.wa.gov/OpenGovernmentTraining.aspx>.

Washington Schools Risk Management Pool contracted with an attorney to provide two (2) 15-minute recorded PowerPoint trainings that our members can use to meet this new requirement. Our training is specific to what school board members would need to know. Members may access these trainings directly on our website <http://members.wsrmp.com/> to present at a board training or provide their school board members with the information to view independently.

We strongly recommend all school board training provided to, or taken by, your school board to be documented. It is important to maintain a sign-in sheet that lists the date and signature of the trainee, a copy of the training materials, and any other pertinent handouts. Washington Supreme Court stated in 2010 that it will consider Public Records Act training in assessing penalties for public records violations.

If you need assistance accessing these trainings on our website, please send an email to Communications@wsrmp.com, or call 206.394.9737 for assistance.