

What do Schools need to know about LB 83

LB 83 defines virtual conferencing – conducting or participating in a meeting electronically or telephonically with interaction among the participants

LB 83 allows all political sub-divisions to meet virtually during a declared emergency

If emergency is declared by the Governor (pursuant to the Emergency Management Act) in the jurisdiction of a political sub-division (in part or in whole)

- The public body may hold a meeting by virtual conferencing during the emergency if
 - Gives reasonable advance publicized notice – the notice shall include information regarding access for the public and news media
- The public body shall provide access to the public with a link or dial-in number
 - Shall also provide links to an electronic copy of the agenda, all documents being considered at the meeting, and the current version of the OMA
 - Reasonable arrangements shall be made to accommodate the public’s right to hear and speak at the meeting and record the meeting.
 - The political sub-division shall maintain a list of the news media requesting notification of meetings and shall make reasonable efforts to provide advance notification to them of the time and place of each meeting and the subjects to be discussed at that meeting.
 - The nature of the emergency shall be stated in the minutes
 - Political sub-divisions may make reasonable rules and regulations regarding the conduct of persons attending, speaking at, videotaping, television, photographing, broadcasting, or recording its meetings – including virtual meetings.

Other Requirements of LB 83

- Public body **SHALL** require someone speaking to the board to be named and to include an address and the name of the organization represented unless the requirements is waived for security reasons.
- An ESU board member now “may” join a normal, in-person, meeting virtually. If a board member is joining virtually, they cannot vote or be counted toward the quorum. However, they may join the meeting and participate in the discussion. If a board member is joining an in-person meeting virtually there is no requirement for the meeting’s virtual link to be posted.
- At each meeting, either in person or virtual, at least one copy of all reproducible written material to be discussed at the open meeting shall be available in either paper **or** electronic form.
- Starting on July 31, 2022:

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- For NRDs, Cities of the metro class, cities of the primary class, cities of the 1st class, county boards with a population of over 25,000, and **schools (ESUs are NOT included in this requirement)**:
 - Shall make available on such entity's public web site the agenda and minutes of any meeting of the governing body. The agenda shall be placed on the website at least 24 hours before the meeting. Minutes shall be placed on the web site at such time as the minutes are available for inspection as provided by law. The information shall be available for at least 6 months.
 - No action taken by a political subdivision between March 17, 2020, and April 30, 2021 shall be invalidated because the action was taken at a meeting pursuant to the Governor's Executive Order that waived the OMA.
 - A new version of the Open Meetings Act needs to be available.