



Bevill State Community College

SACS Reaffirmation of Accreditation Compliance Certification

Governance and Administration

Comprehensive Standard 3.2.4

The governing board is free from undue influence from political, religious, or other external bodies, and protects the institution from such influence. **(External influence)**

Judgment of Compliance:

Compliance **Partial Compliance** **Non-Compliance**

Rationale for Judgment of Compliance:

The governing board of Bevill State Community College, the Alabama State Board of Education, is compliant with comprehensive standard 3.2.4. The Alabama State Board of Education is established by Code of Alabama (1975) [Chapter 16-3](#), and [Section 16-3-1](#) states that the Board “shall be composed of the Governor as an ex officio member and eight members elected from districts provided by general law. Members of the board shall serve for terms of four years each, and the member from each district shall be elected by the qualified electors of the district at the general election immediately preceding the expiration of the term of office of the member, as designated by the board, representing such district on the board and every four years thereafter.”

The [membership](#) of the Alabama State Board of Education represents Alabama in [eight districts](#); members are selected to their offices through [democratic elections](#) held in each district. All Board meetings and Board work sessions are open to the public and [specific dates, times, and locations](#) are scheduled approximately six months in advance. Board actions require a motion and second and an affirmative vote of the majority of the Board members present. No motion or amendment shall be voted on without a period of discussion, the length of which is to be decided by the presiding officer. The Board is not controlled by a minority of Board members or by special interests or other organizations.

The Alabama State Board of Education has policies in place to protect the colleges under its authority from undue political or external influence. Alabama State Board of Education [Policy 215.01](#): Alabama Community College System Lobbying Activities prohibits institutions under the Board’s authority from employing a lobbyist. Lobbying activities are coordinated by the Office of the Chancellor at the Alabama Department of Postsecondary Education. The policy further states that employees of the college whose responsibilities include lobbying as institutional or system representatives are “prohibited from engaging in their official capacities in fund raising activities for candidates for

public office, including the solicitation and donation of funds or services for campaign contributions or the payment of campaign debts.”

Institutions under the control of the Alabama State Board of Education are further protected from political influence by Alabama State Board of Education [Policy 216.01: Political Action Committees](#), which prevents institutions from organizing or participating in a political action committee. Employees of the institution may not use the college name for any political action committee. The President or other administrators of an institution may not attempt to influence their employees to join or make contributions to any political action committee or related organization.

As a public, state-funded institution of higher education, Beville State Community College is not affiliated with or influenced by any religious or political group, and the College’s governing Board protects it from improper influence from external organizations.

References and Supporting Documentation:

Keyword(s)	Reference
Chapter 16-3	Code of Alabama: 16-3 State Board of Education
Section 16-3-1	Code of Alabama: 16-3-1 State Board of Education: Composition; Election; Term of Office
Membership	BSCC Personnel Handbook 2009: NUMBER: A/1.4 Alabama State Board of Education Members
Eight districts	State Board Policy: 101.03 State Board of Education: Composition, Election, Term of Office
Democratic elections	General Election 2008 Certified Alabama State Board of Education Vote Results as Documentation of Board Member Selection
Specific dates, times, and locations	Alabama State Board of Education Meeting Calendar
Policy 215.01	State Board Policy: 215.01 Alabama Community College System Lobbying Activities
Policy 216.01	State Board Policy: 216.01 Political Action Committees