

Board Standards

A

Framework

for

Excellent

Governance



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SCHOOL BOARD

A democratically elected body that represents public ownership of schools **through governance** while serving as a bridge between public values and professional expertise



PURPOSE OF SCHOOL BOARDS

To provide local leadership, **governance**, and accountability for public education by ensuring that schools reflect community expectations and needs, make the best use of available resources, and advocate for the needs of children.



Alaska's Board Standards

Vision

Structure

Accountability

Advocacy

Conduct & Ethics

Making Board Standards Work

- **Training**
- **Board Self Assessment**
- **Superintendent/Executive Director Evaluation**
- **Annual Conference/Academies Tracks**

VISION

**The board creates
a shared vision to
enhance student
achievement**



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ABC School District

Our Strategic Objectives (Vision)

- 100% of our students will graduate.
- All high school students will have a post-secondary plan.
- All students will have a Personal Learning Plan (PLP) that challenges their potential.

ABC School District

Our Mission:

Nurturing, empowering
and inspiring today's
student to positively shape
tomorrow's world.

Dynamic shared vision, reflective of students needs & community priorities.

- Do I still possess the “fire” that caused me to run for the board?
- What do I do to make the community feel welcome to the board process?
- Do individuals feel comfortable enough to approach me with concerns?

Board keeps the district and community focused on educating students

- Do I, as an individual, really have the vision?
- Do I talk to others in my community about the vision?
- Do I always ask the question, “Is it good for kids” ?

Board demonstrates commitment to vision by using the vision to guide decision making

- **Do I weigh my decision against the vision each time I cast a vote?**
- **Can I explain my decisions within the context of the vision?**

STRUCTURE

The board
provides a
structure that
supports the
vision



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A management system resulting in effective decision making processes - enables all to help achieve the vision

- **Do I publicly support and reinforce the superintendent, teachers, and administrators?**
- **Do I regularly review my board policy manual?**
- **Do I refer to and adhere to board policy?**

Long and short term plans are developed and annually revised - extensive participation, information gathering, research, and reflection

- **Do I remain connected to my community?**
- **Am I really committed to the planning process?**
- **Do I appropriately delegate and pay attention to board appointed committees?**

Board sets high instructional standards based the knowledge and skills students will need in the future

- **Do I demand the best teachers so that our students are challenged?**
- **Do I remain current on emerging needs for our students?**
- **Have I read our curriculum?**

The board acts to ensure vision and structure comply with legal requirements

- Do I insist on a regular review cycle for board policy?
- Am I consistent in applying board policy during appeals?
- Do I comply with the requirements for executive sessions?

The board encourages and supports innovative approaches to teaching, learning, and the continuous renewal of education

- **Am I articulate in justifying staff development to my community?**
- **Do I support the cyclical review of curriculum?**
- **Do I support adequate budget resources for staff development?**

ACCOUNTIBILITY

The board measures
district
performance
toward
accomplishing the
vision and reports
on the results to
the community



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The board receives regular reports on student progress and needs based on a variety of assessments to evaluate the quality and equity of the educational program

- **Do I devote adequate meeting time for test presentations?**
- **Do I devote the needed time to gain a personal understanding of test results?**

The board evaluates the superintendent and board performance annually and reports the results to the public

- **Do I provide objective input on the superintendent's evaluation based on the district vision?**
- **Am I timely in providing my input?**
- **Am I an active, honest participant in the board self-evaluation?**

The board ensures long and short term plans are evaluated and revised with the needs of students in mind

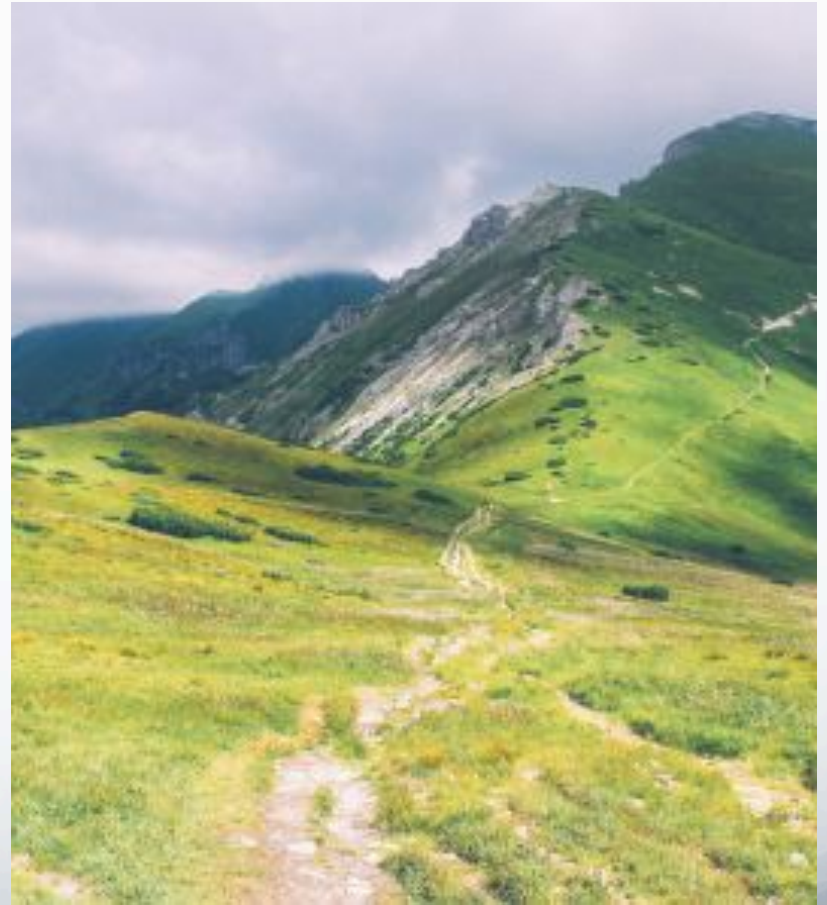
- **Have I arranged my personal life to ensure adequate time for participation?**
- **Do I periodically review our plans so that I remain focused on our vision?**
- **Do I ask, “Is it best for kids” as I participate?**

The board uses an understandable format to periodically report district performance to the public

- **Do I understand it?**
- **Can I explain it to others?**
- **Is it readily available to the public?**

ADVOCACY

**The board
champions the
vision**



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The board leads in celebrating the achievements of students and accomplishments of others who contribute to education

Am I a defender of public education and our students?

Do I make the time to attend student activities?

Does my community look on me as an advocate?

The board advocates for children and families and establishes strong relationships with parents and other mentors to help support students

- Do I encourage those I meet to visit and participate in my schools?
- Do I personally practice “assets” as I come in contact with our youth?

The board establishes partnerships with individuals, groups, and organizations to promote educational opportunities for all students

- **Do I continually look for new student opportunities in my “other” life?**
- **Do I encourage involvement from community members?**

The board promotes school board service as a meaningful way to make long term contributions to the local community and society

- Am I visible in my community and known for my service to kids?
- Does my board attendance record reflect my commitment?
- Do I provide assistance to new board members?

The board is proactive in identifying and addressing issues that affect the education of students

- Do I remain alert for positive and negative influences on our students?
- Am I focused on the “education” of our students?

CONDUCT & ETHICS

The board and its individual members conduct district business in a fair, respectful, and responsible manner



**The board and its individual members
perform in a manner that reflects service to
the community on behalf of students**

- **Do I publicly support the majority opinion,
even when I am in the minority?**
- **Am I careful to never speak “for” the
board?**

The board demonstrates a commitment to continually improving teamwork, problem solving, and decision making skills through a conscious program of board development

- **When problems arise am I part of the problem or the solution?**
- **Do I fully participate in board development to improve my skills?**
- **Do my colleagues perceive me as a member of the team?**

Expenditures for board activities are clearly identified in the budget, related to the district vision, and open to public scrutiny

- **Do I spend district money as if it were my own?**
- **Do I take full advantage of the training opportunities paid for with district funds?**