

# ***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.



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# History of AASB Board Standards

- Created in 1998
- 25 member committee
- Based on the use of educational standards
- Created from input within & outside the education community



# **So what are Alaska's Board Standards?**

**They are a framework for every aspect of your work as a board member and a board for governing a public school district in Alaska**



# BOARD STANDARDS

A FRAMEWORK FOR ALASKA SCHOOL BOARDS



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# **Alaska's Board Standards**

**Vision**

**Structure**

**Accountability**

**Advocacy**

**Conduct & Ethics**



# Making Board Standards Work

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



# VISION

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



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# Denali Borough 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.

# Denali Borough 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?

# ACCOUNTABILITY

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?**

**A framework for  
every aspect of  
your work  
governing a public  
school district in  
Alaska**



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**Visit** <https://aasb.org/bd-standards/>



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