

YOUR MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

BOARD STANDARDS

A Framework for School Boards

Your school district is a vital member of the Association of Alaska School Boards, our state's leading advocate for public education. Together, we work to ensure equity by strengthening the connections between schools, families, tribes, communities, and government so that every Alaskan child has the opportunity to receive a quality public education.

To be effective elected officials, it is crucial to establish public confidence in our ability to oversee the district. One immediate step a school board can take is to adopt standards for themselves. AASB has developed a Board Standards framework to help guide districts:

VISION ■ STRUCTURE ■ ACCOUNTABILITY ■ ADVOCACY ■ CONDUCT & ETHICS

Each of these five standards is directly tied to our primary purpose as board members: student achievement.



POLICY SERVICES

POLICY ASSISTANCE AND DEVELOPMENT

Policy is the most valuable management tool educational leaders can have to operate their district in a legal, fair, transparent, and consistent manner. Our comprehensive range of services supports and improves your district's policy-making through consultation, workshops, research, and custom policy development.

POLICY REFERENCE MANUAL

AASB's copyrighted Policy Reference Manual contains over 400 policies along with administrative regulations and exhibits organized in an easy-to-read format and numerical finder index. Subscribers receive annual updates reflecting new and changing laws and educational trends.

CUSTOM POLICY DEVELOPMENT

Onsite policy workshops allow you to customize your entire policy manual or just specific sections. The policy revision process combines document resources and expert staff so your district can update your complete policy manual within a very short time.

POLICY LIBRARY

You're only a phone call away from getting the sample policies you need to develop your own policy statements. AASB has a library of Alaska school district policy manuals, as well as access to the NSBA nationwide policy network and other state association policy experts.



BOARD DEVELOPMENT

BOARD DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOPS

Whether you're a rookie or a veteran board member, being a leader in public education governance is one arena in which continuing education and professional development are critical. Our workshops are designed to welcome you to the world of public service and get you started on the road to effective governance.

CARL ROSE LEADERSHIP AWARD

Each year AASB awards the Carl Rose Governance Award to a school board member who demonstrates outstanding local school board leadership and making a positive difference for students.

OUTSTANDING SCHOOL BOARD OF THE YEAR

Each year, local school boards are nominated for their service to students. This prestigious award recognizes the "best of the best" who give their time to educate the young people in their community.

WEBINARS

Our one-hour lunchtime webinars help familiarize boards with processes and practices of good boardsmanship.

SALARY AND BENEFITS REPORTS

AASB is the only source for comparative information on Alaska teachers, classified, and administrator salaries and benefits.

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SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT

CHALLENGE FOCUSED, SOLUTION-BASED

A holistic, integrated approach to school improvement builds support and engagement by all stakeholders and improves student achievement outcomes. AASB works with school districts to develop solutions to specific challenges.

Areas of focus can include:

- Governance
- Leadership
- Data analysis and decision making
- Family and community engagement
- School climate
- Cultural responsiveness
- Social and Emotional Learning
- Equity assessment
- Curriculum review and development
- Goal setting and planning
- Post-secondary pathway development
- Facilitation and coaching services
- IT mentoring

TRAUMA-ENGAGED SCHOOLS

AASB has worked with partners to develop the Transforming School Model: A Trauma-Engaged Framework for Alaska. AASB uses this framework and others to work with district and school teams to establish a system-wide approach to Trauma-Engaged schools. This includes professional development, planning, coaching, consensus building, community co-creation, and other related services.

SCHOOL CLIMATE & CONNECTEDNESS SURVEY

The AASB School Climate and Connectedness Survey (SCCS) is a tool to develop school climate and strengthen connections between students and staff—factors proved to be linked to academic outcomes.

The survey measures school improvement, community engagement goals, measure school climate, student connection to adults & peers, social and emotional learning, and observed risk behaviors at school. The SCCS platform makes survey administration, reporting, and analysis interactive and user-friendly.

Support includes:

- Survey implementation support
- Custom questions option
- Interactive district and school reports
- Board and staff workshops on results



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

A SHARED RESPONSIBILITY

The Engagement branch of AASB, the Alaska Initiative for Community Engagement, ensures a high level of participation and collaboration with youth, families, community partners, and tribes in the shared responsibility for preparing Alaska's youth for the future.

YOUTH SERVICES

This includes our Youth Leadership and Youth Advocacy Institutes, coordination and support for district youth leadership summits, support for students, and boards with student representatives. AASB provides *Youth on Boards* as a reference.

COMMUNITY COORDINATION & COLLABORATION

Working in coordination with communities is a great predictor for positive school climate and positive student outcomes. AASB supports communities and schools working together on coordinated plans, hosting community dialogues, and supporting the collective impact process for student outcomes.

CULTURAL INTEGRATION

Using the cultural safety model, AASB offers an assessment of district outcomes and cultural responsiveness. AASB provides facilitation and tools for assessing and building plans to more fully integrate language, culture, and practices to support all students.

FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

AASB offers an Alaskanized framework on Family Engagement and partnerships. AASB staff facilitates planning with the school district and school staff to establish comprehensive, equitable, and systematic approaches to linking families to their student's learning, well-being, and progress.

GRANT PARTNERSHIPS

Alaska ICE partners with school districts and regional organizations to work in prioritized areas of school improvement, policy, or engagement. Our staff can serve as the host organization, grant manager, evaluation partner, or technical assistance provider.

AASB has partnered with organizations and tribes to write and manage grants through the Alaska Native Education Program Grant and Indian Education Demonstration Grant. AASB has also provided funds to districts through partnerships and funding through private foundations.

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TRAINING & EVENTS

AASB ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Each November, this gathering of education leaders brings together most of the school board members in the state. Conference programs feature renowned speakers, education clinics, and a resolution session that gives the association its direction.

YOUTH LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE (YLI)

This event takes place in November alongside the AASB's Annual Conference in Anchorage. YLI is focused on building student leadership skills and personal leadership style, increasing youth communication, and advocacy skills.

BOARDSMANSHIP ACADEMIES

Held three times a year during fall, winter, and spring. Workshops are offered that will improve members' knowledge of issues affecting schools in Alaska.

LEGISLATIVE FLY-INS

Held twice each session, the Fly-Ins equip you with the basics of the legislative process, provide an opportunity to discuss current education issues, and help you connect with your legislative delegation.

YOUTH ADVOCACY INSTITUTE (YAI)

This event takes place alongside the AASB Fly-In in Juneau. Students work with school board members, legislators, and peers to build advocacy and leadership skills and practice these skills with legislators increasing student understanding of the legislative process.

MAINTENANCE DIRECTORS WORKSHOP

A workshop for maintenance directors and employees to share and gain knowledge about the vital role facilities maintenance plays in the management of the district.

EXECUTIVE ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT WORKSHOP

This workshop, tailored for district Administrative Assistants, covers a range of topics that include policy, managing personnel files, Robert's Rules, and more!

CHARTER SCHOOL ACADEMY – ACADEMIC POLICY COMMITTEE (APC)

These workshops are designed to enhance boardmanship skills and guide the APC through training to help them be more effective with their governance roles.



LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY

PROCESS PARTICIPATION

As a school board member, understanding how the Alaska legislature functions is your key to ensuring our students receive the best education possible. AASB partners with school districts in a variety of ways to support board members in being knowledgeable advocates and engaged participants in the legislative process.

LOBBYING

Our Executive Director coordinates AASB's lobbying effort and ensures that school board members are prepared to lobby during each legislative session effectively.

THE SESSION NEWSLETTER

AASB's newsletter *The Session* keeps you up-to-date on the legislature's activities. Each issue provides analysis of unfolding events, summaries of education-related legislation, a schedule of education bills scheduled for committee hearings during the week ahead, current email addresses for legislators, and much more. *The Session* is published each Monday while the legislature is in session to help you start your week informed.

TESTIFY BY TEXT

AASB's new Text Alert system simplifies the process of providing timely legislative testimony on crucial education issues. When key bills requiring public comment are scheduled to be heard by House and Senate committees, AASB will send a text alert to your mobile phone. By tapping on a link in the text and completing a one-minute survey, your testimony will be added to the official legislative committee record.

LEGISLATIVE FLY-INS

AASB hosts two Fly-Ins each legislative session, offering board members an opportunity to receive briefings on priority education issues, meet face-to-face with lawmakers and government officials, provide testimony at committee hearings, and convey your board's perspective on critical issues affecting your district and the state. Whether you are a veteran or a newly elected school board member, you will receive the training and information necessary to be prepared to advocate in the Capitol for your students.

FEDERAL RELATIONS NETWORK

AASB is your link to the National School Boards Association's Federal Relations Network. This is your opportunity to become involved with the legislative process at the national level.

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PAPERLESS MEETINGS

BOARD MEETING SOFTWARE

Improve efficiency, free up support staff time, and save funding by utilizing AASB's paperless board meeting software.

Developed and supported by the Texas and Nebraska School Board Associations, districts have access to an intuitive system with board member and community versions, creating public transparency while protecting sensitive student and personnel information.



STRATEGIC PLANNING

A ROADMAP TO SUCCESS

A Strategic Plan should focus on your district's priorities and action plans for student learning and achievement, provide clear guidance for superintendents and staff, help keep the focus on outcomes, and be useful for evaluating the superintendent based on goals laid out in the plan.

AASB encourages every school district to have a strategic plan in place that sets the direction for the next 3-5 years. Our strategic plan facilitation service brings together stakeholders to develop a goal-oriented plan focused on student success by establishing a mission and vision for the district and developing specific action plans that benefit student learning in measurable ways.



SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH

EXPERT PROCESS FACILITATION

The Association of Alaska School Boards has been conducting successful and economical superintendent searches for over twenty years.

Our Superintendent Search service provides expert facilitation of the entire search process, including identifying the needs of the district, recruiting candidates, conducting background searches, facilitating interviews, and all the steps to help with the hiring process.



PUBLICATIONS

COMMENTARY NEWSLETTER

AASB's widely read monthly newsletter helps keep education leaders, professionals, and stakeholders informed about statewide education developments, and stay current on boardsmanship, policy development, advocacy, and state budget issues.

TRANSFORMING SCHOOLS—A FRAMEWORK FOR TRAUMA ENGAGED PRACTICE IN ALASKA

This framework brings together lessons learned by school staff and community members within Alaska while integrating school-wide trauma-engaged approach to improving academic outcomes and well-being for all students. Using stories, research, and best practices, this resource is designed for use by school/community teams seeking to make our schools a place of positive transformation and significant learning for each student.

HELPING KIDS SUCCEED—ALASKAN STYLE & HELPING LITTLE KIDS SUCCEED—ALASKAN STYLE

These inspiring, practical, and easy-to-read handbooks serve as a tool for individuals helping to make Alaskan communities places where youth can grow up to be strong, capable, and caring. Outlines 40 developmental assets young people need to shape their success.

YOUTH ON BOARDS

This updated edition provides reflection questions and an assessment checklist to determine how involved and supported students are within their board roles, and clarify the next steps for more meaningful engagement with student school board members.

FAMILY ENGAGEMENT FRAMEWORK

This document shares effective approaches for Alaska educators to help improve family partnerships and boost student success. School personnel are key to making families feel welcome, building confidence in their role, and providing specific and meaningful ways in which they can help their child succeed. A resource for school boards, community partners, and others to better understand their role in developing policy and building capacity for effective school-family partnerships. (Release: November 2019)

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