

Board Policy Why does it matter to Good Governance?

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What does it mean to govern?

gov·ern

ˈɡɒv.ər.n

See definitions in:

Merriam-Webster

verb

to direct the policy, actions, and affairs of (a nation, organization, or person)

1. to direct the policy, actions, and affairs of (a nation, organization, or person)

"the way of exercising or governing the country"



Taking the Lead and Board Standards

- Vision
- Structure
- Accountability
- Advocacy
- Conduct & Ethics

<https://aasb.org/board-standards/>



Taking the Lead Means:

- Securing Resources
- Making Decisions
- Monitoring Effectiveness
- Developing Policies**




What is the Connection Between Policy and Governance?




Boards define their role through
Board Bylaws and delegate
through **Policy**
Policy makes clear the Board's
Direction and intention



Board Policy




Provides the framework for the day-to-day operations of the district.
Keeps decision-making situation-based and not person-based
Helps keep the Board focused on governance and Board business



Policy Composition

Board Policy (BP) is the WHY




Policy tells us why and what needs to be done

Administrative Regulation (AR) is the HOW




Developed by the Superintendent
Tells us how the policy is implemented





Policy Composition

cf:
Abbreviation for confer/conferatur
Cross reference to related policies




Legal Reference:
Laws and statutes which guide the content of the policy

Boards serve 3 functions


Governance
Executive
Judicial



Board Bylaw 9000 - Role of School Board and Members (Powers, Purposes, Duties)


“The Board may execute any powers delegated by law to it or to the district which it governs, and shall discharge any duty imposed by law upon it or upon the district which it governs.”

- Governance Functions
- Executive Functions
- Judicial Functions




Governance Functions

Policies of The Board:



Establishes why and what to govern the district

Prescribes bylaws for its own governance – **Board Bylaws (section 9000)**



Executive Functions

Policies of The Board Define:

The **Superintendent** shall serve as the chief executive officer of the Board

The **Board delegates** to the Superintendent the authority to carry out Board decisions and to make and carry out any decisions which it delegates.



Executive Functions

Policies of The Board Define:

The **Superintendent** shall be fully responsible for the proper use of this authority

The **Board retains ultimate responsibility** for the performance of any powers or duties delegated.



Judicial Functions

Policies of The Board Define:

The ability to hear and resolve grievances, complaints, and criticisms.

Shall serve as a **body of appeal** for grievances, complaints, and criticisms in accordance with Board policies and negotiated employee agreements.



Lead through Policy

- Understand the policy process
- Review policy on a regular basis
- Link policy to major agenda items
- Know where to find your policies
- Ask the questions



The Policy Process

- Identify the Need
- Analysis – gather facts, identify options
- Board study, discuss, identify basic elements
- Draft the policy



The Policy Process

- Board review, public input
- Corresponding Administrative Regulations
- Disseminate and Implement
- Review



Questions?

- Does your Board think in terms of policy?
- Do you regularly schedule policies for review?
- Do you look to policy before making decisions?
- Do you know what policy has to do with governance?



Where is my policy?

Usually it is now kept online

Example: AASB Policy Online service



BP 5113 ABSENCES AND EXCUSES

The School Board believes that regular attendance plays a key role in the success a student achieves in school. The Board recognizes its responsibility under the law to ensure that students attend school regularly. Parents/guardians of children aged 7 to 16 are obligated to send their children to public school except as allowed by law. The Board shall abide by all state attendance laws and may use any legal means to correct the problems of excessive absence or truancy.

- (cf. 5112.1 – Exemptions from Attendance)
- (cf. 5112.2 – Exclusions from Attendance)



The screenshot shows the Alaska Department of Education website. On the left is a navigation menu with various codes such as 'BP 8000 RECEIPTS AND INVOICES', 'BP 8001 MISCELLANEOUS PROCEEDINGS', and 'AA 8115 ABSENCES AND EXCUSES'. The 'AA 8115 ABSENCES AND EXCUSES' section is expanded, showing a list of sub-sections including 'AA 8115.1 LATELY ON TRACK - INDEFINITE', 'AA 8115.2 EARLY TERM EXCLUSION', and 'AA 8115.3 CONDUCTIVE FROM ATTENDANCE'. The main content area displays the title 'AA 8115 ABSENCES AND EXCUSES' followed by a paragraph: 'When students who have been absent return to school, they must present a satisfactory explanation verifying the reason for the absence. The following methods may be used to verify student absence:'. Below this are four numbered items: '1. Written note from parent/guardian or parent representative.', '2. Conversation, in person or by telephone, between the verifying employee and the student's parent/guardian or parent representative. The employee shall subsequently record the following: a. Name of student, b. Name of parent/guardian or parent representative, c. Name of verifying employee, d. Date of date of absence, e. Reason for absence.' At the bottom of the page is the 'ALASKA Department of Education' logo.

Questions



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