



PSBA Standards for Effective School Governance

To promote student growth and achievement, an effective school board . . .

Advocates for a thorough and efficient system of public education by:

- a. Promoting public education as a keystone of democracy.
- b. Engaging and promoting community support by seeking input, building support networks and generating action.
- c. Allocating resources in a manner designed to facilitate student achievement consistent with school district goals and plans.
- d. Maintaining legislative awareness and communicating with members of local, state and federal legislative bodies.
- e. Ensuring strong management of the school system by hiring, setting goals with and evaluating the superintendent.
- f. Employing qualified staff to meet student and program needs.

Models responsible governance and leadership by:

- a. Staying current with changing needs and requirements by reviewing educational literature, attending professional development opportunities prior to board service and continuously during board service, and preparing to make informed decisions.
- b. Interacting with school officials in other districts and using resources provided by organizations and agencies committed to effective governance and management of public schools.
- c. Leading with respect and taking full responsibility for board activity and behavior.
- d. Adopting and acting in accordance with the *PSBA Code of Conduct for Members of Pennsylvania School Boards*.
- e. Engaging all community stakeholders.
- f. Complying with board policy and all applicable local, state and federal laws and regulations.
- g. Operating as a collective board in making decisions.
- h. Participating in annual board retreats.

Governs through policy by:

- a. Seeking input from stakeholders and following an established procedure for consideration.
- b. Regularly reviewing and, as necessary, revising and adopting board policy.
- c. Delegating to the superintendent responsibility for implementation of board policy.
- d. Ensuring public access to adopted board policy.
- e. Purposefully linking its actions to applicable board policies.

Ensures that effective planning occurs by:

- a. Adopting and implementing a collaborative strategic planning process, including regular reviews.
- b. Setting annual goals that are aligned with the strategic plan.
- c. Linking board actions to the strategic plan.
- d. Adopting a financial plan that considers short-term and long-term needs.
- e. Adopting professional development plans for board and staff.
- f. Adopting a plan to ensure evaluation of student growth and achievement using relevant data.
- g. Adopting a master facilities plan conducive to teaching and learning.
- h. Adopting a plan for curriculum review and development.

Monitors results by:

- a. Using data appropriately to make informed decisions.
- b. Ensuring effective practices for evaluation of staff, programs, plans and services.
- c. Evaluating its own performance.
- d. Assessing student growth and achievement.
- e. Evaluating the effectiveness of the strategic plan.

Communicates with and engages the community by:

- a. Distributing relevant information about the district.
- b. Providing methods of communication to the board and appropriate staff.
- c. Seeking input through a variety of methods.
- d. Including stakeholders in all communications.