

6 Standards For School Boards

Susan Salter

Director of Leadership Development
Alabama Association of School Boards



ALABAMA
ASSOCIATION OF
SCHOOL BOARDS

What do school boards
in high achieving systems
do differently?

6 Standards for School Boards

An effective school board:

1. Operates as a visionary, ethical governance team
2. Focuses on student achievement
3. Creates local policy in compliance with state & federal law
4. Acts with fiscal responsibility

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An effective school board:

5. Selects (if the superintendent is appointed) & supports an effective superintendent
6. Advocates for public education through communication with stakeholders

Operates as
a visionary,
ethical
governance
team

- Creates a vision as a result of collaboration
- Commits to board training that builds teamwork
- Conducts effective, efficient board meetings consistent with the vision
- Abides by ethical practices

Roles for Vision:

Board

- Work with superintendent to create vision, goals
- Approve the vision & goals
- Use them to guide
- Communicate them at all opportunities

Superintendent

- Work with board to create vision, goals
- Keep staff focused & working on vision & goals
- Propose a strategic plan to make vision a reality

The board's most important role is to

1. Set policy
2. Investigate complaints
3. Choose personnel
4. Set direction & hold superintendent accountable
5. Be the public's voice

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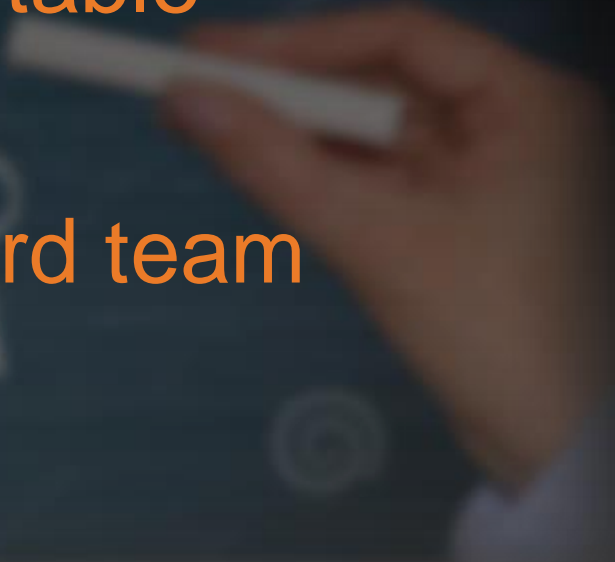
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5 Key Roles for School Boards

- Set clear expectations
 - Create the conditions for success
 - Hold the system accountable
 - Build public will
 - Learn together as a board team
- 

A board member alone is just another citizen

1. True
2. False



When the board makes a decision I disagree with, I should:

1. Continue to talk publicly about my position.
2. Actively lobby members to re-vote
3. Say no more about it.
4. Accept/support it.

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1.

2.

3.

4.

Focuses on student achievement

- Employs & supports quality teachers & staff
- Sets high expectations for students & staff
- Use data in decision-making
- Celebrates successes
- Periodically assesses the effectiveness of the board's work in student achievement

Roles for Achievement:

Board

- Set clear, measurable goals
- Provide resources for staff to meet goals
- Monitor progress
- Review results data
- Ensure necessary changes are made

Superintendent

- Help set the goals
- Create strategy to meet goals
- Oversee staff work
- Review/present results data
- Recommend needed changes

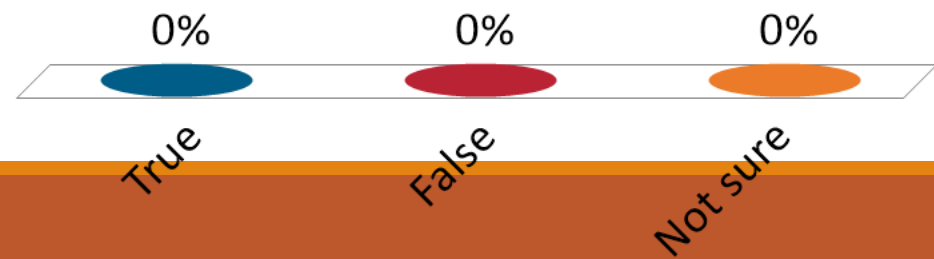
My board communicates high expectations for all students.

1. True
2. False



We provide our teachers the resources to meet our expectations.

1. True
2. False
3. Not sure



The board should look at data by teacher.

1. True
2. False



Report on learning needs: The board ...

1. Directs supt to implement specific program
2. Asks city council for money
3. Sets specific improvement goal
4. Asks for plan to address
5. Blames students

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1.

2.

3.

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5.

Creates
local policy
in
compliance
with state
& federal
law

- Develops an understanding of education law & legal issues facing public education
- Utilizes legal counsel when appropriate
- Understands the difference between policy & procedure & keeps them separate

Acts with
fiscal
responsibility

- Hires & supports an effective CSFO
- Understands key school finance terms & the budget process
- Recognizes the need to prepare for unforeseen financial situations

Acts with
fiscal
responsibility

- Adopts a fiscally responsible budget based on the system's vision & goals
- Communicates clearly & accurately the system's financial status
- Monitors the fiscal status on a regular basis

Selects
(if appointed)
& supports
an effective
superintendent

- Creates and maintains a strong, healthy relationship between the board and the superintendent
- Provides structures that facilitate open channels of communication between the board and superintendent

Selects
(if appointed)
& supports
an effective
superintendent

- Utilizes an effective method for goal setting, long-range planning & frequent evaluation of the superintendent
- Encourages development of a system-wide leadership team that focuses on effective teaching & learning

Micromanagement is:

1. Managing at a far lower, more detailed level than appropriate
2. Acting as if supt is incapable; checking everything he does
3. Anything a colleague does that I don't like
4. A necessary evil

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1.

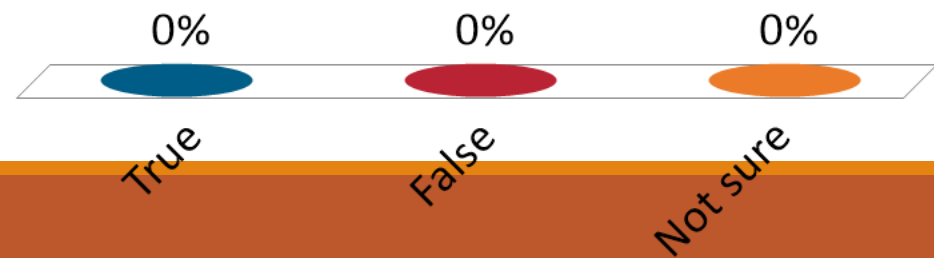
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3.

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Our board annually sets goals for the system with the superintendent.

1. True
2. False
3. Not sure



It's OK to talk to the superintendent about an applicant for a position ...

1. Always
2. Sometimes
3. Rarely
4. Never

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1.

2.

3.

4.

Board members should serve on committees that interview applicants for administrative positions.

1. True
2. False



Unfair, mismanaging principal: Do you...

1. Report it to the supt
2. Refer the caller to the supt
3. Call the board attorney
4. Talk to other staff at the school

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1.

2.

3.

4.

It's a good idea to ask the tech coordinator to go take a look ...

1. Always
2. Sometimes
3. Rarely
4. Never

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1.

2.

3.

4.

Effective boards don't micromanage



“I would like you to be more self-reliant, show more initiative, and take greater personal responsibility — but check with me first!”

Advocates for
public
education
through
communication
with
stakeholders

- Builds relationships with elected officials to positively influence public policy
- Collaborates with families & community to understand interests & needs & to mobilize community resources
- Encourages ongoing, two-way communication with the public

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Questions?



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