

Board responsibility

In essence, school boards have three functions: planning, setting policy and evaluating results.

Planning -- Boards are required to engage in strategic planning by regulations of the State Board of Education. Appropriate reports of the results of such planning must be filed with the Department of Education.

Setting policy -- The central responsibility of a board, both in theory and in law, is to be the policy-forming body. Policy means actions of the board that set written goals and objectives for the school and parameters for actions.

Evaluating results -- The board must evaluate the results of planning. Evaluation " completes the loop " and, in fact, leads inevitably to more planning. Evaluation occurs all the time, both formally and informally. As a group, the board is not an administrative body; neither should it be a " rubber stamp " for professional educators. The selection of competent administrators who understand their role is to carry out public policies established by the board is one of the board ' s most important functions.

Job description

Devote the necessary time, thought and effort to the duties and responsibilities of the school board.

Attend board meetings and board committee meetings unless detained by sickness or prevented by necessary absence from the school district.

Have a general knowledge of the mission, goals and objectives of the school district.

Become familiar with and act in accordance with relevant school laws and regulations as well as school board policies and procedures.

Participate in appropriate school board member in-service education, training and other learning opportunities.

Advocate for a thorough and efficient system of public education.

Model responsible school governance and leadership.

Adhere to the board's adopted code of conduct.

Work with fellow board members in a spirit of harmony and cooperation in spite of differences of opinion that may arise.

Vote and act in the board meetings impartially for the good of the school district.

Accept the will of the majority vote in all cases and give support to the resulting resolution.

Refer complaints to the proper school authorities and refrain from individual counsel and actions.

Keep the superintendent and fellow board members advised of community reaction to school issues.