

## A system of evaluation starts at the top with the school board.



A school board self-evaluation is a key step on the road to governance excellence. Every board wants to provide quality leadership for the district. A fundamental part of quality is regularly assessing how the board is doing — in both its work and its processes.

“Good chance to build some teamwork.”

“Allowed everyone to express their thoughts on the make up of the board.”

“The board now has a common language about how the board conducts the business of the board.”

— Quotes from feedback forms from IASB facilitated board self-evaluations

IASB recommends boards participate in some form of board self-evaluation annually. The self-evaluation process can help the board to strengthen things it already does well or address areas of challenge. With continuous improvement in mind, some boards appreciate the opportunity to establish a base-line set of performance data and watch progress over the years.

For more information, please contact your field services director today!

Springfield Office – 217/528-9688  
Lombard Office – 630/629-3776



### Field Services

*The vision of the Illinois Association of School Boards is excellence in local school board governance supporting quality public education.*

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# School Board Self-Evaluation



Working together ... better



The best school boards recognize that in order for them to be effective, they need to take responsibility for their work and processes. When boards and board members develop a strong commitment to continuously evaluating and improving their practices and procedures, they are able to provide creative, decisive leadership for their district.

The IASB facilitates the board self-evaluation and provides a means by which the board, as a governance team, steps back and looks at itself, critically examines its strengths and weaknesses, and makes plans for continuous improvement.

### Every board can benefit from a self-evaluation. Benefits include:

- Improved communication and relationships
- Agreement about roles and responsibilities
- Successful board meetings
- Better board/superintendent teamwork
- More effective leadership for the district

### A board self-evaluation serves many purposes including:

- Gathering the perceptions of all board members;
- Fostering dialogue;
- Improving the board's understanding of its role and decision-making processes;
- Identifying next steps for board learning and growth;
- Ensuring continuous board improvement.



“Open discussion among board members, with helpful facilitation.”

“More tolerance and willingness to allow for difference of opinion.”

— Quotes from feedback forms from IASB-facilitated board self-evaluations

### Self-Evaluation Process

Get started by contacting your field services director to discuss goals, process, and timeline. The process usually begins with establishing a date for the in-district session. A dedicated meeting of approximately three hours works best.

IASB discusses options with district leadership, who then select the best plan to meet the unique needs of the governance team.

Among the options are two proven board self-evaluation survey instruments. Both are available online. Board members individually complete the survey. Once completed, the field services director prepares a report from the responses, which is then used to facilitate the board's conversation at the in-district session.

### Open or Closed

The Illinois Open Meetings Act allows boards to meet in closed session for the purpose of self-evaluation “when meeting with a representative of a statewide association of which the public body is a member.” 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(16). The board can choose whether to meet in closed or open session.

### Fees

A fee of \$400 for this service covers all expenses including IASB staff travel and materials. Fees for any additional follow-up workshops requested by the board as a result of this session will be quoted as provided in the IASB Field Services catalog.