

AR 9020 BOARD STANDARDS

The Board standards developed by the Association of Alaska School Boards and adopted by the North Slope Borough School Board establish the framework for effective governance. This Administrative Regulation integrates those standards with the Board's operating commitments and expectations into one cohesive document that guides both performance and practice.

1 Mission & Strategic Plan

- 1.1 The Board should develop and maintain a dynamic strategic plan and educational mission that reflects student needs and community priorities.
- 1.2 The Board should keep the District and community focused on educating students, recognizing that students are the highest priority and shall be at the forefront of all Board decisions.
- 1.3 The Board should demonstrate commitment to the strategic plan and mission by using them to guide decision-making during properly noticed Board meetings. Decisions shall be made collectively by the Board, not independently by individual members.
- 1.4 Board members articulate the mission of the District by remaining connected to school communities through participation in Community School Advisory Council (CSAC) meetings on a quarterly basis when feasible, and by attending school events and community activities when possible.

2 Systems to Support the Mission and Strategic Plan

- 2.1 The Board establishes and maintains a governance system that results in effective decision-making processes and responsible use of District resources.
- 2.2 Meetings will begin on time and follow adopted agendas. The Board President will facilitate meetings to ensure efficiency, focus, and forward progress. Special meetings should generally be limited to no more than three agenda items unless District needs require otherwise.
- 2.3 The Board ensures that long- and short-term strategic plans are developed and annually revised through extensive participation, information gathering, research, and reflection. Operational implementation of the Strategic Plan should be formally reviewed by the Board mid-year and again during the annual summer retreat to ensure continued alignment with the Board's mission.
- 2.4 The Board sets high instructional standards based on the best available information regarding the knowledge and skills students will need in the future.
- 2.5 The Board encourages and supports culturally relevant approaches to teaching and learning and the continuous review of curriculum, consistent with legal requirements.
- 2.6 The Board acts to ensure that its mission, policies, and structure comply with applicable local, state, and federal laws.
- 2.7 The Board supports the administration to ensure the mission and strategic plan are operationalized in a fiscally responsible manner.

3 Accountability – Measuring Performance and Ensuring Responsibility

- 3.1 The Board receives regular reports on student progress and District needs based on a variety of assessments to evaluate the quality and equity of the educational program.

- 3.2 The Board evaluates the Superintendent and conducts a formal annual self-evaluation of Board performance during the summer retreat, taking action on findings to support continuous improvement.
- 3.3 The Board ensures that long- and short-term operational and educational plans are evaluated and revised with student needs in mind.
- 3.4 The Board uses an understandable format to periodically report District performance to the public.
- 3.5 Board members are expected to attend meetings and workshops in person whenever possible. If unable to attend in person, members shall remain actively engaged through approved alternative means.
- 3.6 Board members shall review meeting materials and packets in advance to ensure informed deliberation. All members will be given the opportunity to speak, and members will actively listen to and consider diverse perspectives before making decisions.
- 3.7 Committee participation is an essential component of Board accountability. Members are expected to participate consistently in assigned committee meetings. If a member is unable to attend, an alternate may be designated when appropriate.
- 3.8 To ensure responsible governance:
 - i. After three consecutive unexcused absences from regular meetings, a Board member may be asked to resign in accordance with applicable law and policy.
 - ii. If a Board member actively participates in only 50% or less of required meetings and responsibilities, compensation may be reduced proportionally, consistent with District policy and legal requirements.
 - iii. A Board member may request a special meeting through the Board President to discuss Board conduct. Where the Board President does not support the request, the Board member may seek a majority to proceed to discuss Board conduct.
- 3.9 The Board will follow established complaint procedures and respect administrative processes.

4 Advocacy – Championing Students and Community

- 4.1 The Board leads in celebrating the achievements of students and the accomplishments of staff, families, and community members who contribute to education.
- 4.2 As elected representatives for the District, Board members serve all villages of the North Slope in the best interests of all children and should support and facilitate strong relationships with parents, guardians, mentors, and community partners to support students.
- 4.3 The Board establishes and supports partnerships with individuals, groups, and organizations to promote educational opportunities for all students.
- 4.4 The Board promotes School Board service as a meaningful way to make long-term contributions to the local community and society.
- 4.5 The Board may hold meetings within individual villages when feasible to enhance community engagement and accessibility.
- 4.6 The Board is proactive in identifying and addressing issues that affect the education and well-being of students.

5 Conduct & Ethics – Professional and Respectful Governance

- 5.1 The Board and its individual members act in a manner that reflects service to the community on behalf of students. As elected officials, members are committed to fulfilling their duties with professionalism and consistency.
- 5.2 Board members shall adhere to adopted agendas, remain focused on topics under consideration, and conduct deliberations in a respectful and orderly manner.
- 5.3 The Board demonstrates a commitment to continually improving teamwork, problem-solving, and decision-making skills through ongoing Board development.
- 5.4 Expenditures for Board activities shall be clearly identified in the budget, directly related to the strategic plan, and open to public scrutiny.

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