



APPLICATION

SCHOOL BOARD GOVERNANCE AND EQUITY INITIATIVE

Chalkboard Project is seeking interest from school districts and school boards to be a part of an initiative focused on improving student achievement by using the levers of good governance and equity. Research has demonstrated that a strong partnership between a board that governs and a superintendent who manages can have a positive effect on student achievement. Through coaching school board members on best practices in governance and equity, school board members become more effective leaders and governors which is a critical piece of school district transformation.

Governance is grounded in helping all school board members learn their roles as governors, knowing how to analyze data, deliberate and make decisions that align with the school district's strategic plan, assess results, and adjust accordingly. This training and coaching will result in boards being able to focus on providing an equitable, quality education for all children and eliminate achievement and opportunity gaps. School districts chosen for the initiative will have already considered and approved an equity policy. The training will include assisting districts in learning how to use the equity policy as a lever to improve student achievement

Training parameters

Chalkboard Project is seeking 2-3 school districts that would like to participate in Round One of a yearlong pilot focused on governance and equity. The training would include:

1. Participation by all board members and the superintendent is required. The superintendent may include other direct report staff for some or all the trainings.
2. An initial one to two day workshop on governance and equity as levers to effect student achievement. To begin, the facilitators and board members and superintendent will collaborate to co-design the training framework to address the specific needs of the district. Topics could include:
 - a. Effective school board governance models,
 - b. The characteristics of effective boards and effective board members,
 - c. The roles of the superintendent and board members,
 - d. The development of board policies to support the board work,
 - e. The use of equity as a lever in raising student achievement,
 - f. The use of an equity lens in policy development and budgeting,
 - g. Strategic planning, goal setting, metrics and evaluation
 - h. Board and superintendent self-evaluation,
 - i. The use of data in evaluation and continuous improvement,
 - j. Consideration of student voice and student participation on the board.
3. Attendance at a dinner with all the district teams and facilitators to share the initial work that has been done. This dinner meeting will take place during the annual OSBA Conference in November.
4. Following the initial workshop and dinner there will be 2-3 additional face-to-face coaching periods with the trainer that include:
 - a. Shorter meetings with the board and superintendent as they continue teambuilding and the working on the areas of interest from the framework developed in their first meeting.

- b. Review and revision of district policies that improve board performance and accelerate student achievement including how those policies have been implemented and might be implemented in the future.
 - c. The review of data in decision making and continuous improvement.
 - d. Observations and coaching of school board meetings.
 - e. Other coaching as determined by the facilitator, superintendent and board members.
- 5. An ending session in August 2018 that provides an opportunity for all districts and their teams to meet and share their experiences.
- 6. There will also be pre-and post- self-evaluations for the board and superintendent.

Project evaluation

A third party evaluator will work with Chalkboard, the districts and facilitators to gather information and data on each boards' use of governance tools and how those tools have affected their performance and the performance of the district against the goals of its strategic plan.

Technical requirements

For districts considering applying for this training please respond to the following questions with short (150 words) responses.

1. Why are the board members and superintendent interested in participating in this initiative?
2. Are current board members and the superintendent receptive to governance and equity training? Would there be any constraints?
3. How many new board members were elected in May, and what is the current onboarding process?
4. Does the district have a current strategic plan with metrics and evaluation built into the plan?
5. Does the district budget to the plan or plan to the budget?
6. Does the district have an equity policy and plan? What is the evidence of implementation?
7. What are the demographics of the district and the board?
8. Is a culturally diverse board important to board members – why or why not?
9. Does the board have protocols, commitments and policies defining their roles and their relationship with the superintendent?
10. Does the district have a student representative on the board and how is the student appointed?

To apply for consideration

Please submit your application electronically by 5:00 pm on June 21, 2017 to Pam Knowles at schoolboard@chalkboardproject.org or 503-334-7668. The application should include:

1. District information
 - a. District strategic plan.
 - b. Copy of the district equity policy.
 - c. Copies of any board protocols for operating.
 - d. Key achievement data for the district.
 - e. Demographics of the board, district, and community.
 - f. Names and years of service of all board members and the superintendent.
 - g. Other governance and equity training the board has participated in in the last two years and the provider of the training.
2. Responses to the above questions in technical requirements.

Round Two

Initial interest for this initiative has been strong and only 2-3 districts will be able to participate in the first cohort. Chalkboard is considering adding another cohort that would begin training in January or February. If your district is also interested in this opportunity please indicate your interest on the application.

Acknowledgement

The members of the school board and the superintendent agree that they will attend all scheduled trainings.

Superintendent

School Board Chairperson