

TURNING A NEW PAGE

Arizona School Boards Association Mission Statement

Promoting community volunteer governance of public education and continuous improvement of student success by providing leadership and assistance to public school governing boards.

This publication of Policy Advisories by ASBA Policy Services introduces an additional effort on the part of the Association to assist governing board members grow and develop in their understanding of the roles of governance and administration, and to equip board members with information they need to make knowledgeable and thoughtful decisions for fulfilling their responsibilities as governing board members.

For that purpose, Policy Services Advisories will be distributed by e-mail to each subscribing district governing board member and the superintendent who has a viable e-mail address on file with the Association. Persons not having an e-mail address on file will be notified by postal card that Advisories have been issued and how they may obtain a copy.

We are confident questions will be generated as this new venture is launched. Hopefully the following information will address many of them.

I'm still a little unsure of the relationship between board policies and the regulations and exhibits. Can you provide a quick definition of each?

POLICIES are global statements setting out what the Governing Board expects and requires. Once adopted, they continue in perpetuity, as written, until revised or rescinded.

REGULATIONS are administrative documents describing how the Superintendent intends to implement the Board's policies. Regulations describe administrative procedures to accomplish policy expectations and requirements. They are subject to modification as the Superintendent determines it to be desirable and necessary.

EXHIBITS are informational documents that either give or request information. Exhibits are subject to more frequent revision to accommodate needs to change the type, form, and content of documents for presenting or gathering information.

Will all of the documents in our Manual of Governing Board Policies and Administrative Regulations look just like those in the Advisories?

TURNING A NEW PAGE

No. Policy Services researches and develops document models crafted to comply with laws and agency rulings affecting school systems, to suggest uniform philosophical statements, and recommend good practices. However, each district has the prerogative of having certain documents customized to their local desires and preferences, the right to not accept document models when so desired, and the privilege of creating documents locally to address specific needs of their school system. Therefore, many will be the same or similar while some may vary somewhat or be totally different. Policy Services is always available and eager to districts adjust their documents to be a good fit for the district.

Our Board relies on the Superintendent to bring to our attention the need for new documents or revisions to existing documents. Is that okay?

Of course. That is an essential responsibility of the district's chief executive officer and the Board should expect and respect wise leadership from them. At the same time as the Superintendent is charged with intelligently administering the district, the Board has a critical responsibility to provide effective and appropriate governance of the district. The ideal is for the Board and Superintendent to form a great team to the benefit of all concerned parties.

Do I have to read the Advisories?

No, but why wouldn't you? Although not all the documents will have direct application to your district, particularly if yours is an elementary, a union high school, or a joint technical education district, we should all be striving to be better at what we are called upon and expected to do. No one promises that all this policy stuff will be exciting and invigorating, the the more we learn about it the more comfortable we can become with it. And who knows...

If our Board or our Superintendent has suggestions about how the efforts to help us become better equipped and informed to perform our governance and administrative responsibilities, can we pass out ideas on to you?

Please do. Just like you, we in Policy Services always want to improve. Your ideas and suggestions may provide the very answers we need to resolve issues challenging us. By helping each other we can provide better service to our kids, and isn't that what it's all about?