

Balanced Governance Board Self-Assessment

Standard 1: Vision-Directed Planning

The Board engages community and staff in the development of a shared vision focused on student learning. The Board ensures that the vision is the foundation of the mission and strategic goals that direct board policymaking, planning, resource allocation and activities.

Standard 2: Community Engagement

The Board recognizes that all members of the community are stakeholders in the success of their schools. The Board engages the community using a reciprocal advocacy process that creates and sustains meaningful conversations, system connections, and feedback loops across the breadth of their community. The Board supports collaborative partnerships and new types and levels of community participation in schools.

Standard 3: Effective Leadership

The Board practices and supports leadership that is proactive, integrated, and distributed. The Board establishes focus, direction, and expectations that foster student learning. Across the education system, the board ensures the development and implementation of collaborative leadership models and practices guided by student learning goals. Within the district, the board ensures the alignment of authority and responsibility so that decisions can be made at levels closest to implementation.

Standard 4: Accountability

The Board holds high expectations for the learning of each and every student and holds themselves and the District accountable for reaching those results. The board provides strategic direction in the development of the District's mission, vision, and goals. The Board adopts policy and resources that align with the District's strategic vision and goals. The Board monitors and holds accountable the superintendent to implement the District's strategic vision and goals.

Standard 5: Using Data for Continuous Improvement and Accountability

The Board uses meaningful and high-quality data and information, from multiple sources and in various formats, to identify areas for improvement, set priorities, and monitor improvement efforts. At the same time, they support even better ways to do things the organization is already doing well.

Standard 6: Cultural Responsiveness

The Board recognizes cultural diversity in its many facets including social, economic, political, religious, geographical, generational, linguistic, ethnic, racial, sexual orientation, gender identification, and students with special needs. The Board develops an understanding of this diversity and applies perspectives responsive to the cultures in their community in policy and program approvals. The Board supports effective community engagement and expectancy strategies to build on the strengths of a community's cultural diversity.

Standard 7: Culture and Climate

The Board creates a climate of expectation that all students can learn at their highest level. The Board supports policy and procedures that foster a positive and safe learning environment. The Board models professional relationships and a culture of mutual respect with staff and community. The Board models and establishes an organizational culture of service.

Standard 8: Learning Organization

The Board ensures the District functions as a self-renewing professional community that supports reflection, discovery, learning, improvement, and success by staff at all levels. The Board encourages professional development that empowers staff and nurtures leadership capabilities across the organization.

Standard 9: Systems Thinking

The Board practices and supports systems thinking in its deliberation and approval of policy, programs, and procedures. The Board practices an integrated view of education within and across systems and levels (e.g. K-12, ESD, community college, and university). The Board seeks out collaborative local, state, and national partnerships, coordinated programs, and shared resource models to improve student learning.

Standard 10: Innovation and Creativity

The Board encourages innovation and creativity as assets to the process of development and change, leading to new types of thinking and better ways of meeting student needs. The Board supports innovation and creativity that support district vision, values, and goals throughout the organization; engages collaborative partnerships; and encourages dialogue, new ideas, and differing perspectives.

Standard 11: Board Member Conduct, Ethics, and Relationship with the Superintendent

The Board recognizes that it is essential to have a clear, mutual understanding of the respective roles and responsibilities of the Board and the superintendent. The Board supports and practices team building as an essential part of this relationship.

Standard 12: Budgeting and Financial Accountability

The Board ensures that strategic educational goals of schools are translated into reality through effective alignment with the budget and make sure the school district is fiscally sound. The Board utilizes fiscal resources based on student needs and district policy and strategic goals.