



# Information Briefing

## IOWA SCHOOL BOARDS FOUNDATION

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### ***Guiding Questions:***

#### ***Family & Community Connections to Improve Learning***

Strengthening connections with families and the community is an effective strategy to improve student learning. Board members can ask guiding questions at the board table to ensure that strong partnerships with families and community members are maximized to benefit the learning needs of all students.

#### **Guiding Questions for the Board:**

1. What do we know about parent/staff relationships in relation to their student's learning? What evidence do we have that these relationships are based on meaningful partnerships and are improving student learning?
2. How are we involving parent groups, the business community, organizations and other public opinion leaders in the development, implementation of and accountability for our content standards and improvement goals?
3. Do we have evidence that parents and community members know, understand and agree with our district's content standards and improvement goals?
4. How well do parents and community members understand assessment results? Are specific areas of a student's strengths and weaknesses clearly identified and defined?
5. What does the business community think of the competency of our recent graduates? How can we find out if we don't know?
6. How do we show that we truly welcome community input about our school system? What have we done to address barriers to involvement?
7. What vehicles do we use to report assessment results – good and bad – and other information about student success to parents, the business community, the media? Are our reports clear and quantifiable? Do they promote understanding? How do we know? Do we offer opportunities for community discussion about these results?