

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS CODE OF GOVERNANCE**

The Board of Directors holds that the values, knowledge, and skills of effective school board directors are based on adherence to basic positive principles such as honesty, integrity, and respect for human dignity.

As publicly elected officials, they recognize and accept the responsibility of their roles as independently elected officials and their authority to act only within the structure of the school board. They commit to taking the time necessary to understand the beliefs, acquire the knowledge, and develop the skills necessary to be effective school board directors about specific issues before the board and remain reasonably knowledgeable about local, state, national and global education issues.

As a means of fulfilling its missions, the Board encourages each of its school board directors to subscribe to the Professional Standards adopted by the Washington State School Directors Association. The board is to provide leadership focused on promoting student achievement through planning, policy setting, advocacy, and monitoring of performance so every student succeeds. To fulfill these roles, the board implements the following professional standards:

1. Provide responsible school district governance by:
  - a. Conducting board and district business in a fair, respectful, and responsible manner.
  - b. Ensuring the board is accountable and open to the public including seeking divergent perspectives in its decision-making process.
  - c. Respecting and advocating mutual understanding of the roles and responsibilities of school board directors and the Superintendent. Respecting the Superintendent's authority to advise the board, implementation of board policy and procedures and the day to day operation of the district.
  - d. Adopting policies based on well-researched practices that emphasize a belief that all students can achieve at high levels and that support continuous improvement of student achievement.
  - e. Promoting healthy relationships by communicating supportively, inspiring, motivating, and empowering others, and exercising influence in a positive manner.
  - f. Working as an effective and collaborative team.
  - g. Upholds and enforce all laws, rules and regulations of the State of Washington and United State of America, and all court orders pertaining to schools.
2. Set and communicate high expectations for student learning with clear goals and plans for meeting those expectations by:
  - a. Articulating the conviction that all students can learn and the belief that student learning can improve regardless of existing circumstances or resources.
  - b. Leading the development and stewardship of a vision of learning that is shared and supported by schools and community.
  - c. Adopting a collaboratively developed district plan focused on learning and achievement outcomes for all students.

- d. Ensuring non-negotiable goals for student achievement are established and aligned to the district's plan.
3. Create conditions districtwide for student and staff success by:
    - a. Providing for the safety and security of all students and staff.
    - b. Employing and supporting quality teachers, administrators, and other staff and providing for their professional development.
    - c. Providing for learning essentials, including rigorous curriculum, technology, and high-quality facilities.
    - d. Ensuring management of the organization, operations, and resources for an efficient and effective learning environment.
    - e. Adopting and monitoring an annual budget that allocates resources based on the district's vision, goals, and priorities for student learning without discrimination based on race, religion, creed, color, national origin, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender expression or identify, marital status, the presence of any sensory, mental or physical disability, or the use of a trained guide dog or service animal.
  4. Hold school district accountable for meeting student learning expectations by:
    - a. Committing to continuous improvement in student achievement at each school and throughout the district
    - b. Evaluating the superintendent on clear and focused expectations
    - c. Measuring student academic progress and needs based on valid and reliable assessments.
  5. Engage local community and represent the values and expectations they hold for their schools by:
    - a. Working with community and the Superintendent to establish a clear vision that supports learning for all students.
    - b. Providing the policy, financial and structural framework to support and guide the operation of the district's schools.
    - c. Monitoring performance to hold our schools accountable for making progress toward the district's goals and vision for its schools.
    - d. Establishing meaningful communications with stakeholders.
    - e. Delegating limited authority through written charges to councils, advisory committees, task forces, or learning improvement teams.
    - f. Requiring that the resources of the district and each school's plan be directed toward student learning and the district's strategic goals.

Monitoring the progress of each school's plan for achieving the district's strategic goals.