



Board policy and student achievement

Action Steps

We know the purpose of a school board is to establish policies and programs that create the foundation for students' academic achievement. Board members fulfill these policy responsibilities by functioning as a deliberative body that articulates and adopts policy and selects a superintendent to implement the same. Consider the following steps to govern effectively through policy and impact student achievement.

Board policy action steps

- Know the district's policy manual. Be aware of what is covered in policy and how it is structured.
- Understand how policies are reviewed and updated — who identifies policy needs and what process is in place for reviewing necessary updates?
- Know how stakeholders are involved in the process.
- Make certain the manual is current and reflective of practice. Consider a facilitated review of the entire manual for compliance with changes in law and district mission, vision, goals and objectives.
- Look at policy revisions through a student achievement lens.
- Ask for help! Make certain the district and the board have the resources necessary to govern effectively through policy.
- Communicate the district's policies. Are the policies easily accessible to the entire school community — students, parents, employees and community members?
- Make policy a priority.

