

SCHOOL BOARD SELF-EVALUATION

This evaluation is based on the six dimensions of board competency, a description of successful board practices uncovered during the Trustee Demonstration Project. This five-year study involved trustee boards from more than 20 colleges, schools, and non-profit organizations in the United States. Listed under each of the six major headings are statements describing a variety of related board actions. You will score each action according to how frequently it occurs. At the end of each section, you will tabulate the scores and assign a grade for each of the six dimensions of competency. At the end of the evaluation, you will assign your board an overall grade.

DIMENSION I: CONTEXTUAL												
This action occurs:	Frequently			Occasionally			Rarely			Never		
1. Board takes the time to learn about important issues facing schools through actions such as allowing teachers, students, and administrators to report at meetings.	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0	
2. Board discusses and researches events and trends in the larger community that may affect schools.	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0	
3. Board reviews district's mission statement.	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0	
4. Board recognizes the superintendent as chief executive officer and educational leader of the district.	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0	
5. I have been present at board meetings where discussions about values of the district were key factors in reaching a conclusion to a problem.	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0	
6. Board communicates its decisions to all affected by them.	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0	
7. Board keeps abreast of policies mandated by state and federal law, Department of Public Instruction, attorney general opinions, and the courts.	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0	
8. Board establishes and maintains a systematic plan for feedback on policies to determine effectiveness, their worth, and whether they need to be amended, modified, or canceled.	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0	

9. Board keeps informed about what children are learning through reports on scholastic achievement, vocational programs, and the impact of extracurricular activities.	10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1 0	
10. Board stays aware of its debt limitations and sets priorities based on total financial needs of the system and maintaining an adequate financial reserve.	10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1 0	
DIMENSION I SCORE:	_____/100 _____%	* GRADE:
* Use one of your school's grading scales to determine this.		

DIMENSION II: EDUCATIONAL

This action occurs:	Frequently	Occasionally	Rarely	Never
1. Board assigns new members a mentor to help them learn the ropes and provides new members with detailed explanation of the board's mission.	10 9 8	7 6 5	4 3 2	1 0
2. Board requests a decision be postponed until further information can be obtained.	10 9 8	7 6 5	4 3 2	1 0
3. Board conducts an explicit examination of its responsibilities, discussing its role in district management.	10 9 8	7 6 5	4 3 2	1 0
4. At least once every two years, the board has a retreat or special session to examine its performance.	10 9 8	7 6 5	4 3 2	1 0
5. Board is given and reads the agenda and background materials well in advance of meeting.	10 9 8	7 6 5	4 3 2	1 0
6. Board participates in in-service programs at regional, state, and national levels.	10 9 8	7 6 5	4 3 2	1 0
7. I have participated in board discussions about what the board should do differently as a result of the mistakes made.	10 9 8	7 6 5	4 3 2	1 0
8. Board leadership goes out of its way to make sure that all members have the same information on important issues.	10 9 8	7 6 5	4 3 2	1 0
9. I read through the board's policies, procedures, and employee contracts.	10 9 8	7 6 5	4 3 2	1 0
10. Board has discussions about the effectiveness of its performance.	10 9 8	7 6 5	4 3 2	1 0

DIMENSION II SCORE:	_____ /100 _____ %	GRADE:
----------------------------	-----------------------	---------------

DIMENSION III: INTERPERSONAL

This action occurs:	Frequently	Occasionally	Rarely	Never
1. Board's split decisions do not result in a split board.	10 9 8	7 6 5	4 3 2	1 0
2. Board members are able to hold confidential items in confidence.	10 9 8	7 6 5	4 3 2	1 0
3. Board president and superintendent confer so that differences of opinion are identified.	10 9 8	7 6 5	4 3 2	1 0
4. Board members are able to speak their minds without fear of being ostracized.	10 9 8	7 6 5	4 3 2	1 0
5. I have discussed with fellow members common interests we share outside the boardroom.	10 9 8	7 6 5	4 3 2	1 0
6. Once a decision is made, the board works together to see that it is accepted and carried out.	10 9 8	7 6 5	4 3 2	1 0
7. At our board meetings, there is at least as much dialogue among members as there is among members and staff.	10 9 8	7 6 5	4 3 2	1 0
8. Board has adopted some explicit goals for itself, distinct from district goals.	10 9 8	7 6 5	4 3 2	1 0
9. Board provides biographical information that helps members get to know one another better.	10 9 8	7 6 5	4 3 2	1 0
10. Board handles conflict openly and constructively.	10 9 8	7 6 5	4 3 2	1 0
DIMENSION III SCORE:	_____ /100			GRADE:
	_____ %			

DIMENSION IV: ANALYTICAL

This action occurs:	Frequently	Occasionally	Rarely	Never
1. I have been in board meetings where subtleties of issues dealt with escaped the board.	0 1 2	3 4 5	6 7 8	9 10
2. Board explicitly examines the “downside” or possible pitfalls of any important decision it is about to make.	10 9 8	7 6 5	4 3 2	1 0
3. Board questions administrative proposals, requiring the superintendent to defend or reconsider his/her recommendations.	10 9 8	7 6 5	4 3 2	1 0
4. Board is attentive to how it reaches conclusions.	10 9 8	7 6 5	4 3 2	1 0
5. Decisions of the board on one issue tend to influence how it handles other issues.	10 9 8	7 6 5	4 3 2	1 0
6. When faced with an important issue, the board often “brainstorms,” generating a list of creative approaches or solutions to the problem.	10 9 8	7 6 5	4 3 2	1 0
7. Board seeks outside assistance from consultants or other districts when considering its work.	10 9 8	7 6 5	4 3 2	1 0
8. Board does not present new issues of a complex nature for immediate action.	10 9 8	7 6 5	4 3 2	1 0
9. Before reaching a decision on important issues, board requests input from students or staff likely to be affected by the decision.	10 9 8	7 6 5	4 3 2	1 0
10. Board handles issues that are ambiguous and complicated by appointing committees to conduct in-depth research.	10 9 8	7 6 5	4 3 2	1 0

DIMENSION IV SCORE:	_____ /100 _____ %	GRADE:
----------------------------	-----------------------	---------------

DIMENSION V: POLITICAL

This action occurs:	Frequently	Occasionally	Rarely	Never
1. Board shows an awareness of the impact its decisions will have on the community.	10 9 8	7 6 5	4 3 2	1 0
2. Board encourages the public to attend board meetings.	10 9 8	7 6 5	4 3 2	1 0
3. Board actively cooperates with the news media to spread information about schools programs.	10 9 8	7 6 5	4 3 2	1 0
4. Board has formed ad hoc committees/task forces that include staff and community representatives as well as board members.	10 9 8	7 6 5	4 3 2	1 0
5. Board offers committees referenced in #4 opportunities to report at meetings.	10 9 8	7 6 5	4 3 2	1 0
6. Board and its members maintain channels of communication with key community leaders.	10 9 8	7 6 5	4 3 2	1 0
7. If the board thinks a group of constituents is likely to disagree with an action it's considering, it makes sure to learn how the public feels before rendering the decision.	10 9 8	7 6 5	4 3 2	1 0
8. Board has adopted a policy on parent and public relations/involvement, which it references and reviews.	10 9 8	7 6 5	4 3 2	1 0
9. Board withstands the pressure of special interest groups.	10 9 8	7 6 5	4 3 2	1 0
10. Board is actively involved in state and federal education legislation.	10 9 8	7 6 5	4 3 2	1 0
DIMENSION V SCORE:	_____ /100			GRADE:
	_____ %			

DIMENSION VI: STRATEGIC

This action occurs:	Frequently	Occasionally	Rarely	Never
1. Board devotes more time to putting out fires than it devotes to preparing for the future.	0 1 2	3 4 5	6 7 8	9 10
2. Board sets clear organizational priorities for the year ahead.	10 9 8	7 6 5	4 3 2	1 0
3. At least once a year, board asks the superintendent to articulate his/her vision for the school district's future and offer strategies to realize that vision.	10 9 8	7 6 5	4 3 2	1 0
4. Board discusses where the school district will be five years from now.	10 9 8	7 6 5	4 3 2	1 0
5. Within the past year, board has reviewed school district strategies for attaining long-term goals.	10 9 8	7 6 5	4 3 2	1 0
6. I have been at board meetings where discussion focused on identifying or overcoming school district weaknesses.	10 9 8	7 6 5	4 3 2	1 0
7. Board makes explicit use of long-term priorities of the school district in dealing with current issues.	10 9 8	7 6 5	4 3 2	1 0
8. Board compares reports on schools' progress with the district's long-term goals.	10 9 8	7 6 5	4 3 2	1 0
9. Board has a procedure in place for conducting superintendent evaluations.	10 9 8	7 6 5	4 3 2	1 0
10. Board is periodically advised of availability of outside funds, such as state and federal grants, special programs, community resources, research programs and special construction funds.	10 9 8	7 6 5	4 3 2	1 0
DIMENSION VI SCORE:	_____ /100			GRADE:
	_____ %			

