

1.07A - Standards for Arkansas School Boards

I. Vision/Philosophy

- A. The School Board creates a clear vision for the district that focuses on students, excellence in education, and academic achievement.
- B. The School Board adopts this vision that is created through collaborative processes that involve the staff, parents, community, and students.
- C. The School Board effectively communicates this vision to the staff, parents, community, and students.
- D. The School Board adopts long and short-term goals to accomplish the vision of the district.
- E. The School Board believes that accountability for achieving the goals of the district rests with the School Board, the superintendent, the staff, the parents, the community, the students, and the state.

II. Organization

- A. The School Board adopts and follows a “Code of Ethics.”
- B. The School Board adopts policies that clearly define the roles and duties of its members.
- C. The School Board adopts policies delineating the procedures for electing its officers and defining their roles and duties.

III. Board Operations

- A. The School Board governs through approved policies and maintains a current policy manual which is reviewed regularly.
- B. The School Board conducts professional meetings in accordance with the Arkansas Freedom of Information Act by establishing and publishing the agenda prior to the meeting and by following the agenda during the meeting.
- C. The School Board conducts public forums periodically to receive input from citizens.
- D. The School Board acts with fiscal responsibility.

IV. Board Development

- A. The School Board receives annual training as recommended and/or conducted by the Arkansas School Boards Association and is familiar with [A Handbook for Arkansas School Board Members](#).
- B. New School Board members receive additional timely training regarding School Board member responsibilities.
- C. The School Board conducts annual self-assessments and avails itself of professional development opportunities based on the needs of its members.
- D. The School Board keeps abreast of state and federal laws that impact education.
- E. The School Board stays informed about current education issues.
- F. The School Board attends regional and state Arkansas School Boards Association meetings and remains informed of National School Boards Association meetings and issues.

- G. The School Board, at least annually, convenes for an extended work session to review goals, evaluate the progress of the district, and develop long-range plans.
- H. The School Board is familiar with *Key Work of School Boards* and implements those concepts.

V. Personnel Operations

- A. The School Board maintains a high standard of ethics in all personnel matters.
- B. The School Board remains neutral in all personnel matters until the superintendent brings a recommendation to them.
- C. The School Board adopts personnel policies with input from district personnel.
- D. The School Board empowers the administration to recruit and recommend highly qualified applicants to the Board.
- E. The School Board expects the administration to maintain a highly qualified staff by offering timely and adequate opportunities for professional development.
- F. The School Board hires the superintendent and is responsible for conducting a search to replace an exiting superintendent.
- G. The School Board evaluates the superintendent annually and determines the continued employment of the superintendent.

VI. Board/Staff/Community Relations

- A. The School Board maintains a positive, supportive, and professional attitude toward all staff.
- B. The School Board and the superintendent work together as a leadership team.
- C. The School Board recognizes, protects, and encourages the chain of command at all times.
- D. The School Board and superintendent recognize that communication is a two-way process.
- E. The School Board and the superintendent work together to provide and follow a process that encourages and seeks input from the staff and community when appropriate on significant issues by:
 - 1. providing leadership in the establishment of open dialogue through community discussion groups, school councils, and other means;
 - 2. collaborating with local, state, and national agencies;
 - 3. working with the media to provide information;
 - 4. visiting schools; and
 - 5. including informative presentations from staff and students at school board meetings.
- F. The School Board models respect for the superintendent, staff, parents, community, and students.
- G. The School Board supports and adopts the use of Study Circles, or a similar process, as a method of communicating with the staff, the parents, the community, and the students

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Last Revised: