

# School Board Standards

## Standard 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 board members and the superintendent.
- 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.

## Standard 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, articulation 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.

## Standard 3

### Create conditions district-wide 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.



*We, as independently elected officials, recognize and accept the responsibility of our role and our personal authority to act only within the structure of a school district's board of directors. We commit to taking the time necessary to understand the beliefs, acquire the knowledge and develop the skills necessary to be effective school directors.*

*~ Washington State School Directors' Association Bylaws and Positions*



## Standard 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.

## Standard 5

### Engage local community and represent the values and expectations they hold for their schools by:

- a. Collaborating with families and community members, responding to diverse interests and needs, and mobilizing community resources.
- b. Ensuring school board and district transparency through a process that is open and accountable.
- c. Ensuring district information and decisions are communicated community-wide.
- d. Soliciting input from staff and a wide spectrum of the community so that a diverse range of interests and perspectives on issues is considered.



*"The Standards provide a foundation for the critical discussions and ensuing decisions that must be made to ensure student success."*

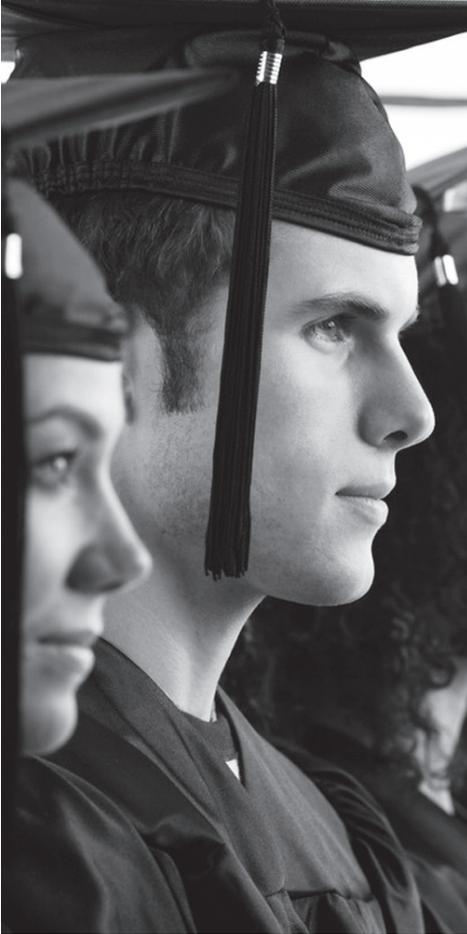
~ Joan Skelton, Chair, WSSDA  
Board Standards Task Force,  
and Director, Evergreen School  
District

## Contact us

If you have questions, or would like further information about the Washington School Board Standards, please contact Phil Gore at [P.Gore@wssda.org](mailto:P.Gore@wssda.org) or 360.493.9231.

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# Individual School Director Standards

## Standard 1. Values and Ethical Behavior

To be effective, an individual school director:

- a. Places students' needs first.
- b. Demonstrates commitment to equity and high standards of achievement for each student.
- c. Commits to treating each individual with dignity and respect.
- d. Models high ethical standards.
- e. Advocates for public education.

## Standard 2. Leadership

To be effective, an individual school director:

- a. Contributes to thoughtful governance discussions and decisions by being well informed, open minded and deliberative.
- b. Understands that authority rests with the board as a whole and not with individual directors.
- c. Is able to articulate and model appropriate school director roles and responsibilities.
- d. Actively participates in school director duties and responsibilities.
- e. Demonstrates group membership and leadership skills, working within the board structure.
- f. Respects the board's role in policy making and supports all adopted board policies.

## Standard 3. Communication

To be effective, an individual school director:

- a. Builds and maintains positive connections with the community and staff.
- b. Communicates accurately and honestly, with awareness of the impact of his/her words and actions.
- c. Listens carefully and with an open mind.
- d. Maintains civility and treats all people with respect.
- e. Maintains confidentiality of appropriate matters.
- f. Refers and guides people with concerns to appropriate staff.
- g. Welcomes parent, student and community input.

## Standard 4. Professional Development

To be effective, an individual school director:

- a. Commits the time and energy necessary to be informed and competent.
- b. Keeps abreast of current issues, research, applicable laws, regulations, and policies that affect public education.
- c. Participates in professional development, individually and with the board/superintendent team.

## Standard 5. Accountability

To be effective, an individual school director:

- a. Is accountable to the community.
- b. Takes personal responsibility for his/her own words and actions.
- c. Respects and abides by board decisions.
- d. Meets expectations for transparency, including disclosing potential conflicts of interest and refraining from discussing or voting on those issues.
- e. Complies with board policies/procedures and the law.

