

GSBA has revised its recognition program to reflect the state standards offers school boards additional ways to increase their effectiveness. Below is an outline of the criteria headings, expectations, and rationale and application requirements for **EXEMPLARY BOARD RECOGNITION**. Applications must be submitted to GSBA by **October 1** each year. Similar information will be provided for Quality Board and Distinguished Board recognitions on the GSBA web site. Boards seeking Exemplary Status must first earn the Quality and Distinguished Board Recognitions.

CRITERIA	EXPECTATIONS	RATIONALE	REQUIREMENTS
	Must be Distinguished Board recognized the prior year to apply for Exemplary Board	Why is the criterion important to school governance?	
STRATEGIC PLANNING	A System Strategic Plan has been adopted, currently being implemented which includes balanced scorecards on completing district goals and posted on district's web site for stakeholders review.	A System Strategic Plan and its alignment with school improvement plans are vital to the continuous improvement process. Adoption of the plan and the process used by the governance team reinforces its importance throughout the system and community.	A System Strategic Plan has been adopted and is currently being implemented, which includes balanced scorecards on completing district goals and posted on district's web site for stakeholders review.
GEORGIA VISION PROJECT	The board has incorporated fifteen of the Vision Project's local school district recommendations into the system's Strategic Plan.	The Vision Project was created by Georgia educational leaders using researched best practices and data to support it. Governance teams are encouraged discuss the implications in their own system, and where appropriate, to incorporate the Vision recommendations into its system's Strategic Plan.	The board has incorporated fifteen of the Vision Project's school district recommendations into the system's Strategic Plan.

¹ **GOVERNANCE TEAM** = Superintendent plus the Local Board of Education

² **Exemplary Committee** = As a minimum consists of 2 community stakeholders, 2 board members and a central office administrator.
(The committee is composed of different members than the Distinguished committee.)

ASSESSMENT	The Governance Team ¹ conducts a Self-Assessment using a Self-Assessment Instrument, and then an Exemplary Committee ² (composed of different members than Distinguished Committee) conducts an assessment using the same instrument. The board will review the EC recommendations for further consideration. (GSBA Governance Team Self-Assessment instrument or equivalent instrument can be used.)	Members of a local school board are to "manage and control" and make decisions on many aspects of public school operations. The school board's day-to-day responsibilities are generally delegated to the superintendent. This criterion assesses the processes, procedures and best practices utilized by the Governance Team in providing school district leadership.	The Governance Team conducts a Self-Assessment using a Self-Assessment Instrument, and then an Exemplary Committee (composed of different members than Distinguished Committee) conducts an assessment using the same instrument. The board will review the EC recommendations for further consideration. (GSBA Governance Team Self-Assessment instrument or equivalent instrument can be used.) Additional assessment options are being considered.
SUPERINTENDENT EVALUATION § GA Code 20-2-210	The annual Superintendent Evaluation Instrument, as a minimum, incorporates the Strategic Plan District Goals. (GSBA Superintendent Evaluation Instrument or equivalent instrument can be used)	The board, as part of the Governance Team, is required by state law to annually evaluate the superintendent's performance. The evaluation instrument should address the specific goals to be evaluated and identify evidence of performance. The Superintendent Evaluation Instrument should be linked to the System's Strategic Plan.	The annual Superintendent Evaluation instrument, as a minimum, incorporates the Strategic Plan District Goals. (GSBA Superintendent evaluation instrument or equivalent instrument can be used)
LOCAL BOARD OF EDUCATION TRAINING REQUIREMENTS	The State Board of Education annual training requirements are exceeded by a minimum of three additional credit hours for all Governance Team members.	As part of the training program adopted by the State Board of Education, the Georgia Department of Education must confirm board member training credit hours. The GSBA Exemplary Board recognition program recognizes local boards of education that exceed the training requirements. All board members must exceed the minimum requirements by three additional hours, or 18 credit hours for new board members and 12 credit hours for veteran board members.	The State Board of Education annual training requirements are exceeded by a minimum of three additional credit hours for all Governance Team members. Additional credit hours will be considered from state approved and non-state approved training providers. Documentation of completed courses is mandatory.
ACCREDITATION	The local board of education and school district comply with standards of all selected accreditation associations applicable.	Accreditation is considered an external measure of the quality of education provided in a school district. The valid external measures with required best practices and the impact on student scholarships make this criterion	The local board of education and school district comply with standards of all selected accreditation associations applicable.

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		mandatory. The GSBA recognition program does not require a specific accreditation agency.	
COACHING BY THE GOVERNANCE TEAMS	Once the Exemplary Board Recognition is awarded, assistance to other Governance Teams is expected.	When a Governance Team is recognized by GSBA for its accomplishments in obtaining the Exemplary Board level of recognition, there is an obligation on behalf of that recognized Governance Team to assist other Governance Teams, if requested, to achieve Distinguished and Exemplary Board Recognition.	If requested during the Exemplary Board Recognition period, the Governance Team is expected to assist other Governance Teams in seeking Distinguished and Exemplary Board Recognition.
RECOGNITION REMOVAL	Exemplary Board Recognition can be removed for good cause as determined by GSBA.	If the School Board “no longer meets” the Exemplary Board Recognition criteria during the recognition period, then recognition is withdrawn for good cause as determined by GSBA.	The School Board pledges to implement and maintain all criteria required for the Exemplary Board Recognition level.
RENEWAL CYCLE	Annual: July 1 – June 30	The highest level of the recognition program is the Exemplary Board Recognition. All Exemplary Board Recognition level criteria should be completed by the deadline and the application must be submitted to GSBA by October 1. All levels of GSBA Board Recognition will be awarded at the following December Annual Conference.	After the first year of recognition, the Governance Team will submit to GSBA by October 1, verification that the Exemplary Board Recognition criteria continue to be met by completing the Exemplary online application in order to maintain status.

For more information, contact the GSBA Board Development Department at 770-962-2985 or GSBA’s website at gsba.com.

TIMELINE FOR EXEMPLARY BOARD RECOGNITION

Criteria Completed

- Initial Year Application - Must be a Distinguished Board to Apply.
- Apply online yearly for Exemplary Board to verify still in compliance.

Application Due to GSBA

- October 1

Recognition Date

- December GSBA/GSSA Annual Conference

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