



August 2019

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Upcoming Free Webinar

****DATE CHANGE****

August 29 | 11:30 a.m.

Topic: Policy

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Policy Development: The Board's Voice

Policy is the voice of the board. The board actually governs through its development of policies, making this one of its most important roles. Policies reflect the general intent of the board, provide direction for the superintendent and help define the expectations of the board in educational matters.

We have all heard or read the textbook statement that the board's role is policy and the superintendent's role is implementation of policies. If only it were that simple! In the real world, the lines between policy and implementation can often be blurred. The nature of a particular issue or problem must be evaluated in context so that the responsibilities of the superintendent and the board can be separated. This can be messy, but it can and should facilitate mutual respect and cooperation between the board and superintendent.

Policy-making takes a great deal of time if done properly. It requires extended discussion and often compromise among members of the board. After all, each board member has his/her own perspective and opinion. The process is part of healthy board operations and helps ensure an effective governance team.

In developing policies, the subject of the policy influences the actual initiation or direction of the policy. Sometimes the board requests a policy be developed to address an issue of interest or concern of their constituents. An example may be complaints of vaping. Other times, the superintendent makes the board aware of a policy need because of a curricular, personnel, operational or disciplinary issue, a new law or State Board of Education requirement.

The superintendent generally provides information to the board on the need for a new policy or policy revision based on changes in laws, issues or curricular requirements. The board discusses the proposed policy in relation to the community norms and expectations. Direction is given to the superintendent who works with staff to develop a draft to be brought back to the board for consideration. The new or revised policy lays on the table for

thirty days, allowing for community review and input, before the board adopts the final policy.

Policies are generally defined as broad guidelines for effectively operating the school district. They help guide staff as they carry out their responsibilities.

Procedures are the methods by which the policy is to be carried out. These are specific and translate to how, by whom, where and when certain actions are to be carried out in order to implement the policy.

Rules or **Regulations** reflect State statutes or Federal law and guide, mandate or limit school district operations.

The following are some points to consider:

- Your practice is your policy so be certain your policies are known and adhered to by staff and administration
- Policies should be reviewed and revised regularly to ensure compliance with State and Federal laws and rules
- Simply copying a policy from another district may not truly reflect the intent of the board

GSBA offers a policy review and also provides guidance and sample policies in response to legislative actions. We encourage you to make policy development and maintenance a priority.

RESOURCES:

- [eBoardmanship Chapter 8 - Developing and Managing Policy](#)

POLICY WEBINAR ON THURSDAY, AUGUST 29, 11:30 AM

*****DATE CHANGE*****

This webinar was previously scheduled for August 15 but has been moved to August 29.

This session is on everything you need to know on policy development for your board and you'll be hearing from GSBA's Director of Policy and Legislative Services, Angela Palm. This webinar is open to all board members and superintendents.

Please plan to join us!

The webinar will last 30-45 minutes, click [HERE](#) to register.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR SEPTEMBER'S WEBINAR

When: Thursday, September 19, 11:30 AM

Topic: School Board Member Self-Evaluations

Register [HERE](#).

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

To listen to previously recorded webinars, [click here](#).

Visit [The GSBA HUB](#) under Governance Materials to view previous power-point presentations and additional resources.

We are available if you need/want to talk, **so please don't hesitate to reach out.**

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