

In 1998, the Georgia School Boards Association was one of the first school board associations in the nation to develop a program of standards for local boards of education. Because the Georgia Board of Education adopted a set of state standards for local boards of education in 2011, GSBA has revised its recognition program to reflect the state standards and also to offer school boards additional ways to increase their effectiveness. **QUALITY BOARD RECOGNITION applications must be submitted by August 2, 2021.** Similar information is provided for Distinguished and Exemplary Board recognitions on the GSBA website. **Boards may now apply at whatever level for which they meet the criteria. No longer does a board have to earn the recognition in any particular order.**

*** 1. School System**

*** 2. Board Chair**

*** 3. Superintendent**

*** 4. Person Completing this Application and Title:**

*** 5. STRATEGIC PLANNING**

EXPECTATION

An adopted System Strategic Plan is being implemented.

RATIONALE

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 being implemented.

Please provide the web link to your current strategic plan:

*** 6. GEORGIA VISION PROJECT**

EXPECTATION

The local board of education reviews the recommendations of the Georgia Vision Project and has incorporated at least five of the Vision Project's school district recommendations into the system's Strategic Plan.

RATIONALE

The Georgia Vision Project was created by Georgia educational leaders using researched best practices and data to support it. Governance Teams are encouraged to review this work, discuss the implications in their own system, and identify opportunities, where appropriate, to incorporate the Vision recommendations into their System Strategic Plan. The goal is that public education will provide an equitable and excellent education that prepares all students for college, career, and life.

- The board has reviewed the recommendations of the Georgia Vision Project report.
- Provide a link to the list of at least five Vision Project recommendations your board has adopted into your Strategic Plan.

*** 7. SELF-ASSESSMENT**

EXPECTATION

The Governance Team completes a Self-Assessment and develops recommendations for improvement in Board Governance. (GSBA Governance Team Self-Assessment instrument or equivalent instrument may be used.)

RATIONALE

Members of a local board of education 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 has completed a Self-Assessment and developed recommendations for improvement in Board Governance. (GSBA Governance Team Self-Assessment instrument or equivalent instrument may be used.)
- Provide the link to the Self-Assessment instrument your board utilized.

*** 8. SUPERINTENDENT EVALUATION GA Code § 20-2-210**

EXPECTATION

The annual Superintendent Evaluation instrument, as a minimum, incorporates some of the Strategic Plan District Goals.

RATIONALE

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 and identified improvements.

- A Superintendent Evaluation Instrument has been adopted that reflects state requirements and incorporates some of the System's Strategic Plan improvement goals. *(GSBA Superintendent evaluation instrument or equivalent instrument may be utilized.)*
- Provide the link to the instrument that was utilized for the Superintendent Evaluation process. **NOTE:** GSBA does not need the completed instrument with the ratings, just a sample of the instrument used.

Evaluation instrument web link:

*** 9. LOCAL BOARD OF EDUCATION TRAINING REQUIREMENTS**

EXPECTATION

The local board of education has met State Board of Education training requirements.

RATIONALE

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 recognition program recognizes local boards of education that meet the training requirements.

For Quality Board recognition, ALL school board members must meet annual training requirements.

- All board members have met the Annual State training credit requirements. (15 credit hours for new board members and 9 credit hours for veteran board members)
- Please provide a link to a list of all board members and their training, including the title of the program, instructor and date of each to verify credits.

*** 10. ACCREDITATION**

EXPECTATION

The local board of education and school district comply with standards of all selected accreditation associations applicable.

RATIONALE

Accreditation is considered an external measure of the quality of education provided in a school district. The GSBA recognition program does not require any specific accreditation agency; however, because of the valid external measures with required best practices and the impact on student scholarships, this criterion is mandatory.

The school district is in compliance with standards of all selected accreditation agencies applicable.

Please provide a link to the district's latest accreditation status report from Cognia (formerly AdvancED).

*** 11. BOARD MEMBER ETHICS**

EXPECTATION

All board members will abide by their local Code of Ethics Policy.

Review Code of Ethics Policy annually at a board of education meeting. Address any infractions by members as per board policy.

Provide a link to the latest signed Local School Board Governance DOE Training Report that includes the training board members received with their signatures agreeing to the Code of Ethics.

Provide a link to your local Code of Ethics Policy

*** 12. FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY**

EXPECTATION

Annually adopt a balanced budget.

RATIONALE

Regular review/updates of district finances by the governance leadership team in public meetings. Develop an annual budget that includes public meetings and public input.

Provide date the BOE adopted their latest balanced budget

Provide a link to your district's most recent annual budget calendar

*** 13. VERIFICATION OF MATERIALS**

EXPECTATION

The school board is required to provide documentation as part of the qualification process to meet Quality Status.

RATIONALE

The school board should be able to produce documents/materials that show it has met all criteria for recognition as a Quality School Board.

Yes, the board is ready to send documentation to GSBA upon request.

*** 14. RECOGNITION REMOVAL**

EXPECTATION

Quality Board Recognition can be removed for good cause as determined by GSBA.

RATIONALE

If the school board "no longer meets" the Quality Board Recognition criteria during the recognition period, then recognition is withdrawn.

The School Board pledges to implement and maintain all criteria requested for the Quality Board Recognition Level.

*** 15. RENEWAL CYCLE**

EXPECTATION

Annually: July 1, 2020 - September 30, 2021

RATIONALE

The first level of the program is Quality Board recognition. The application for GSBA Quality Board recognition must be submitted to GSBA by **August 2, 2021**. Any final credits needed must be completed by 5 p.m. on September 30, 2021.

The board understands and agrees to follow the renewal cycle.

List renewal cycle question below (if applies)

*** 16. The [LIST SYSTEM IN SPACE BELOW] County/City Board of Education certifies that all Quality Board Recognition criteria has been implemented and/or completed.**

*** 17. Date of Board Approval**

Approval Date:

Date

