

BOARD – SUPERINTENDENT OPERATING AGREEMENT SAMPLE

PURPOSE:

The Board of Directors is the educational policymaking body for (organization). To effectively meet the system's challenges the School Board and Superintendent must function together as a leadership team. To ensure unity among team members, effective group agreements must be in place. The following are the group agreements for the Board and Superintendent.

COLLABORATIVE GOVERNANCE:

1. Members of the Board and the Superintendent shall work together as a team; modeling lifelong learning and collaboration.
2. Board members shall recognize and respect the Superintendent's responsibility to manage the school district and to direct employees in district and school matters.
3. Board members shall give careful consideration, listening to all perspectives, to all issues brought to the board by individuals and district leadership.
4. The Board shall make decisions only at properly called meetings. Board members recognize that individual members have no authority to take individual action in policy or district and school administrative matters, unless so authorized by board vote.

COMMUNICATION AGREEMENTS:

1. Board members shall follow the chain-of-command and communicate directly with the Superintendent when a question arises, or a concern or complaint is voiced by a staff member, student, parent or community member.
2. Board Members shall communicate directly with the Superintendent or Board Chair prior to meetings of the board to address questions and/or concerns about agenda items.
3. Board members and the Superintendent shall communicate one-on-one, when an individual concern arises, with any member of the board-superintendent team as appropriate.

BOARD EXPECTATIONS OF THE SUPT:

1. Identify one and place here.
2. Identify one and place here.
3. Identify one and place here.
4. Identify one and place here.
5. Identify one and place here.

SUPERINTENDENT'S EXPECTATIONS OF THE BOARD:

1. Identify one and place here.
2. Identify one and place here.
3. Identify one and place here.
4. Identify one and place here.
5. Identify one and place here.

SIGNATURES OF AGREEMENT:

Date _____



OREGON SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION

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BOARD-SUPERINTENDENT WORKING AGREEMENT

BOARD'S EXPECTATIONS OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

1. Work toward becoming a team with board members.
2. Respect and acknowledge the board's role in setting policy and overseeing the performance of the superintendent.
3. Work with the board to establish a clear vision for the school district.
4. Prepare preliminary goals annually for the board's considerations.
5. Provide data to the board members so that data-driven decisions can be made.
6. Possess a working knowledge of all legal and local policies.
7. Inform the board of all critical information including relevant trends, anticipated adverse media coverage or critical external or internal change.
8. Distribute appropriate information to all board members.
9. Communicate with board members promptly and effectively.
10. Distribute the board agenda by _____ (time, day) prior to the regularly scheduled board meetings on _____ (day) of the following week, except when major holidays fall on Friday.
11. Respect the confidentiality requirement of board meeting executive sessions.
12. Treat all board members professionally.
13. Communicate to individual board members if a problem or issue is observed developing with an individual board member.
14. Conduct a self-assessment prior to the board's evaluation of the superintendent's job performance.
15. Represent the school district by being visible in the community.
16. Provide follow-up information to board members on concerns and issues they have referred to the superintendent—close the communication loop.

SUPERINTENDENT'S EXPECTATIONS OF THE BOARD

1. Recognition of the superintendent as the educational leader of the school district.
2. Willingness to share the success and failures of the school system with the superintendent.
3. Assistance in gaining acceptance and support in the community.
4. Willingness to abide by its own rules, policies and code of ethical conduct.
5. Willingness, within budget constraints, to provide the superintendent with adequate staff and clerical assistance.
6. Willingness to acknowledge and follow the chain of command of the school district.
7. Respect for the confidentiality requirement of board meeting executive sessions.
8. Avoidance of seeking personal privilege.
9. Willingness to participate in professional development activities at the local, state and national level.
10. Effort to foster unity, harmony and open communications within the board.
11. Understanding of the relative or complementary role of the superintendent and board in policy making.
12. Careful consideration of each recommendation made by the superintendent.
13. Insistence on all available facts and data before making a decision.
14. Willingness to study and evaluate educational issues affecting the school district.
15. Practice of avoiding surprise items at board meetings.
16. Integrity of the highest order.

