

# The Board's Role: An Overview

The board that is focused on raising student achievement concentrates on the following actions:

- Embracing both privately and publicly a united belief that all children can learn and achieve at higher levels.
- Ensuring involvement of a broad base of stakeholders in creating the vision for the community's schools and supporting the vision both publicly and through board decisions.
- Committing to training so that all board members have a better understanding of both the importance and the operations of the eight key areas critical to improving student achievement.
- Approving comprehensive plans developed with the superintendent's leadership to move the students in the district to higher achievement levels.
- Adopting policies needed to support improvement initiatives.
- Allocating funding for and alignment of the resources needed to advance student achievement. These resources include, but are not limited to, school facilities, technology, staffing, staff development, instructional materials and assessment instruments.
- Monitoring progress toward district goals and supporting the superintendent in efforts to make changes.
- Ensuring clear, concise and user-friendly communications about all facets of the district's emphasis on higher student achievement.
- Serving as the advocate for community support for student achievement as a priority with a variety of groups, including public officials, parents, media and business and community leaders. As lay people, board members rely on the superintendent to present information on student achievement and its complexities in language that is understandable to them and to the public. The superintendent's information is crucial in building trust among the leadership team and with the community- a trust that is necessary to make progress for all students. A good school board does not run the district; rather, it ensures that the district is run well.