



A Standards Framework for School Board Governance

The Manitoba School Boards Association's provincial executive identified the development of a standards framework for school board governance in Manitoba as a core priority in the area of excellence in member services. That framework is outlined below.

Standards for School Board Governance

Optimally functioning school boards strike a balance between effectiveness and efficiency. They are effective governors of the public school system in that they meet their responsibilities to students and communities to the highest of standards. They are efficient governors of that system in that they focus their attention on governance-level responsibilities, delegating administrative and management-level functions to the professional experts employed for those purposes. School boards also understand that while they may delegate specific functions and responsibilities, it is the board that is ultimately accountable for whatever happens within the school division at any level.

As school system governors, school boards focus their attention on fulfilling their responsibilities to students and communities by:

- Focusing on learning and achievement for all students
- Engaging all segments of the community in meaningful ways
- Balancing educational and fiscal responsibilities
- Developing a vision and goals for schools and the division as a whole, through strategic planning
- Nurturing a positive divisional culture and climate
- Establishing and adhering to clear and legally sound policies, by-laws and operating procedures
- Mandating robust monitoring and reporting structures
- Requiring regular, meaningful evaluations, including self-evaluations
- Ensuring appropriate staffing (expertise and levels)
- And where appropriate, empowering others to administer and manage that system