



# Principles for Governance and Leadership

(Available at [psba.org/about/principles/](https://psba.org/about/principles/))

Pennsylvania school boards are committed to providing every student the opportunity to grow and achieve. The actions taken by the board ultimately have both short and long-term impact in the classroom. Therefore, school directors collectively and individually will...

## Advocate Earnestly

- Promote public education as a keystone of democracy
- Engage the community by seeking input, building support networks, and generating action
- Champion public education by engaging members of local, state and federal legislative bodies

## Lead Responsibly

- Prepare for, attend and actively participate in board meetings
- Work together in a spirit of harmony, respect and cooperation
- Participate in professional development, training and board retreats
- Collaborate with the Superintendent as the Team of 10

## Govern Effectively

- Adhere to an established set of rules and procedures for board operations
- Develop, adopt, revise and review policy
- Align decisions to policy
- Differentiate between governance and management, delegating management tasks to administration
- Allocate finances and resources
- Ensure compliance with local, state and federal laws

## Plan Thoughtfully

- Adopt and implement a collaborative comprehensive planning process, including regular reviews
- Set annual goals that are aligned with the comprehensive plan
- Develop a financial plan that anticipates both short and long-term needs
- Formulate a master facilities plan conducive to teaching and learning

## **Evaluate Continuously**

- Utilize appropriate data to make informed decisions
- Use effective practices for the evaluation of the superintendent
- Assess student growth and achievement
- Review effectiveness of the comprehensive plan

## **Communicate Clearly**

- Promote open, honest and respectful dialogue among the board, staff and community
- Encourage input and support for the district from the school community
- Protect confidentiality
- Honor the sanctity of executive session

## **Act Ethically**

- Never use the position for improper benefit to self or others
- Act to avoid actual or perceived conflicts of interest
- Recognize the absence of authority outside of the collective board
- Respect the role, authority and input of the superintendent
- Balance the responsibility to provide educational programs with being stewards of community resources
- Abide by the majority decision

(View/download the Principles for Governance and Leadership)

**View the current list of school entities that have adopted the Principles (at [psba.org/2016/06/10536/](http://psba.org/2016/06/10536/)) (updated once a week)**

## **Principles for Governance and Leadership Adoption**

Once a school entity has adopted the new Principles for Governance and Leadership (view the **current list (at [psba.org/2016/06/10536/](http://psba.org/2016/06/10536/))**, updated once a week), the school board secretary should notify PSBA using the form below. Upon notification and verification, PSBA will send the school entity a poster suitable for signing, framing and displaying in a prominent location in the board room or school.