

## ***Governing for Student Success***

Locally elected school boards govern public schools. Generally speaking, the electorate expects that school boards will ensure that students achieve in these four broad educational categories:

- Academic skills and knowledge;
- Career and technical education skills;
- Citizenship; and
- Personal development.

Elected to represent the community's values, board members come together as a body to provide leadership for student success. In high achieving districts boards operate from a belief that all kids can learn. Based on the latest research on effective school leadership board/superintendent teams implement the following best practices:

- Engage the parents and the community in educating its children;
- Set district improvement goals;
- Create a shared sense of responsibility and accountability across the school system;
- Promote a culture of continuous improvement; and
- Commit to a supportive workplace and staff development aligned with improvement goals.

There are basic strategies that boards use to complete their work. An effective school board:

- Defines and adopts in policy, a governance philosophy;
- Provides oversight through district monitoring and goal setting;
- Conducts superintendent evaluations aligned with district goals and a set of leadership criteria that reflect the board's values;
- Improves board governance through self-evaluation;
- Creates and maintains up-to-date policies to provide clear direction to the superintendent;
- Conducts effective and efficient board meetings;
- Provides fiscally responsible budgeting and facility management; and
- Each spring after new board members are elected, implements a process for new board member orientation.