

Engage the Community and Establish a Vision

Overview

The Board is in the strongest position when it is engaged with their community, clear in its vision for education, and unified in its direction.

The Board should develop structured and ongoing opportunities for the community to define and refine the vision for the school district. Once the vision is in place, the Board then takes on the responsibility for monitoring progress and making policy and budgetary decisions to achieve the vision. To keep the community engaged in the ongoing work of the district, including current successes and challenges, the Board must seek to engage community stakeholders in a variety of settings and contexts.

Roles and Responsibilities in Community Engagement and Vision

School Board

1. Seeks community input in a variety of settings and contexts to ensure engagement that is representative of the community itself.
2. Ensures a climate of open communications at board meetings and throughout the district.
3. Provides funding and resources for community engagement efforts.
4. Approves a strategic planning process that includes the community in creating the vision for student achievement.
5. Adopts the vision.
6. Adopts board goals that support the vision.
7. Communicates the vision clearly to the community.
8. Keeps vision at the forefront of all decision making.
9. Adopts policies needed to achieve the vision.
10. Allocates resources based on the vision.
11. Monitors progress toward vision.
12. Refines the vision as necessary.

Superintendent

1. Identifies opportunities for mutual exchange between the district and the community.
2. Ensures a climate of open communications, both internally and externally.
3. Uses funding for community engagement efforts that are inclusive of the whole community.
4. Recommends a strategic planning process to the board that incorporates participation by diverse individuals representative of the community.
5. A - Develops performance indicators, based on data, to measure progress toward the board's vision for student achievement.
B - Recommends performance indicators for board monitoring purposes.
C - Ensures short- and long-range goals and outcomes are developed and carried out at both the district and school levels.
D - Ensures staff professional development needs are met in order to implement the strategic plan.
6. A - Works with the board to identify its role in supporting the vision.
B - Works with the board to develop plans for carrying out its goals.
7. Teams with board members to speak to groups within the community.
8. A - Uses the vision to guide recommendations to the board.
B - Uses the vision to guide decisions throughout the organization.
9. Recommends policies needed to support the vision.
10. Recommends resources needed to support the vision through the budgeting process.
11. A - Prepares and disseminates information about progress toward the vision for the board, the staff and the community.
B - Provides data and evidence to the board so it can monitor the implementation of the strategic plan.
12. A - Develops a process to solicit input from broad range of stakeholders on implementation of the strategic plan and vision.
B - Recommends changes to the vision and/or strategic plan based on data, research on best-practices and/or changes to law or regulation.

* Adapted from *Essential Work of Vermont School Boards*, VSBA p.34

Community Engagement and Vision Policy

The _____ School District and the schools within the District are an integral part of the community. Community support is necessary for the schools' operation and achievement of excellence. The _____ School District recognizes that community support is based on a mutual exchange, a dynamic process in which the _____ School District contributes to the community's success and, in turn, benefits from the community's resources.

In order to maintain productive relationships with the community, the board will have a clearly articulated vision for the school district. The board will adopt a strategic plan to implement the vision which moves the district forward in its goals for student achievement. The board will closely monitor progress toward the vision and refine it as necessary.

Establishing the Vision

The board will seek community input in its consideration of the vision in a variety of settings and contexts to ensure participation that is representative of the community itself. The vision will be informed by data and research-based best practice provided by the superintendent.

Implementation

The board will strive to keep the vision at the forefront of all decision making. The board will assure that there are resources devoted to implement the strategic plan, and will receive monitoring reports on a _____ basis to ensure effective implementation of the strategic plan. On an _____ basis, the board will revisit the vision and strategic plan and make adjustments according to input from the community and the superintendent.

Date Warned:

Date Adopted:

Legal Reference(s):

Cross Reference: Title I, Part A Parental Involvement Policy (E1)

Community Engagement and Vision - Self Assessment

	Fully Achieved	Mostly Achieved	Partially Achieved	Beginning to Achieve	Don't know/ unsure
The Board seeks community input in a variety of settings and contexts to ensure participation that is representative of the community as a whole.					
A climate of open communications exists at board meetings and throughout the district.					
Community engagement efforts are supported with appropriate resources.					
The Board has established a vision, and the vision is clearly communicated to the community.					
The Board turns to the vision to guide its decision making when appropriate.					
The Board has received data and evidence related to progress toward the vision.					
The Board has reviewed and, if appropriate, refined the vision in accordance with policy.					