

Resources for Candidates and School Board Members



The Illinois Association of School Boards is dedicated to the 6,000 Illinois men and women who donate their time and talents to the cause of excellence in local school governance.

To that end, IASB makes available many materials and resources to school board members elected or appointed, as well as to those citizens who are candidates for their school boards or who are considering such candidacy.

Most of these materials are available for free on our public website, www.iasb.com. The resources represented here have been selected to provide insight into the social and educational challenges facing school boards as well as some practical realities of school board service.

If you have any questions regarding these materials, or if you are looking for additional information about school board service, please contact the IASB publications department at 217/528-9688, ext. 1131. Each resource is identified by title, description, and link.

Your School Board and You — Pamphlet aimed at school board candidates and other interested citizens. Topics include the roles of the school board and its individual members, as well as advice on how to work with your board and how to become a board candidate. www.iasb.com/pdf/YourSchoolBoardandYou.pdf

Understanding School Finance — Booklet answers 12 essential questions about the basics of school finance, from “What is a school district budget?” to “What do we get for the money we spend on education?” <http://iasb.mys1cloud.com/understandingsf.pdf>

Playing Fair with the Children of Illinois — Pamphlet challenges parents and taxpayers to determine for themselves whether their schools are adequately and equitably funded and to seek solutions through more local effort or more state aid. It also discusses impact of staffing and program needs, property wealth, and tax rates. www.iasb.com/pdf/playingfair.pdf

Where Does the Lottery Money Go? — Pamphlet presents questions and answers about the Illinois lottery and its very limited impact on public school funding. It also details the decline in the state’s commitment to schools since advent of the lottery. www.iasb.com/pdf/lottery.pdf

School Board Members Day — Information and supporting materials to help local districts build community awareness and understanding about the crucial role an elected board of education assumes in a representative democracy. www.iasb.com/sbmd.cfm

Recruiting School Board Candidates — For school boards interested in cultivating their next generation of local leaders, this packet of brochures is designed to help recruit prospective school board candidates. This material is intended to support an ongoing process of identifying, recruiting, and mentoring future school board candidates, whether at the next election or during an appointment process (material is available to order). www.iasb.com/training/recruiting.cfm

Getting On, and Staying On, the Ballot — To overcome any possible legal challenges, school boards candidates should be sure their nominating petitions meet the letter of the law. Eleven steps candidates can take to combat objections to their petitions. www.iasb.com/pdf/getstayingonballot.pdf

Qualifications and Characteristics of a School Board Member — Provides answers for prospective school board candidates about necessary qualifications, a job description, reasons for serving, and the characteristics of an effective board member. www.iasb.com/pdf/qandc.pdf

School Board Governance Basics — Document developed for the purpose of new member orientation, training, or board self-evaluation. It includes the Foundational Principles, Code of Conduct, and School Board Member Expectations and Opportunities. Combined, these documents form the basic tenets of school board governance. www.iasb.com/training/schoolboardgovernancebooklet.pdf

Foundational Principles of Effective School Board Governance — Learn more about the six principles that describe the work of school boards (also available with pop-up definitions for key terms). www.iasb.com/principles.cfm

Code of Conduct for members of school boards — Statement adopted by the IASB Board of Directors espouses high ethical standards for boards of education and individual board members. www.iasb.com/pdf/issue5.pdf

Letting the Sunshine in: School Board Meetings and Records — Requirements of the Illinois Freedom of Information Act and Open Meetings Act. Explains what school districts must do to comply with state laws governing public records and open meetings. <http://iasb.mys1cloud.com/JPBSunshine.pdf>

Closing the Communications Gap, Part I — Why school boards won't (and can't) tell you the reasons for employee discipline or dismissal. www.iasb.com/training/issue6.cfm

Closing the Communications Gap, Part II — Some appropriate roles in hiring a new superintendent. www.iasb.com/training/issue7.cfm

Benefits to Membership in Your Association — A brief summary of the Illinois Association of School Boards, including purposes, programs, services, activities, and governance. Explains what members get for their dues. www.iasb.com/pdf/your_assn.pdf

If you are still interested in learning more about the school board association and what it does, here are some additional links to get you started:

- IASB Overview: www.iasb.com/whatis/oview.cfm
- IASB Vision and Mission: www.iasb.com/whatis/mission.cfm
- IASB Beliefs: www.iasb.com/beliefs.pdf
- IASB Staff: www.iasb.com/whatis/staff.cfm

IASB departments and services, including:

- School Board Elections: www.iasb.com/elections/
- Governmental Relations: www.iasb.com/govrel
- Field Services: www.iasb.com/services/#field
- Board Training and Development: www.iasb.com/training
- Executive Searches: www.iasb.com/executive
- Policy Services: www.iasb.com/policy
- School Law Resources: www.iasb.com/law
- Publications: www.iasb.com/publications.cfm
- IASB Bookstore: www.iasb.com/shop
- IASB Events Calendar: www.iasb.com/calendar

Other websites of special value to school board members, administrators and others interested in good school governance: www.iasb.com/links.cfm