

2008 SURVEY OF SUPERINTENDENTS Illinois Association of School Boards

Responses: 404

Response Rate: 47 Percent

Percentages are based on the number of responses to each question.

ABOUT YOUR DISTRICT

In which geographical region (IASB Division) is your school district located?

	Number	Percent
NORTHEAST - West Cook, North Cook, South Cook, Lake, DuPage	109	27.0 %
NORTH - Blackhawk, Kishwaukee, Northwest, Three Rivers, Starved Rock	104	25.7 %
CENTRAL - Western, Central Illinois Valley, Two Rivers, Illini, Abe Lincoln, Corn Belt	106	26.2 %
SOUTH - Wabash Valley, Southwestern, Kaskaskia, Egyptian, Shawnee	82	20.3 %
Don't Know	2	0.5 %
Total	403	99.8 %

Missing Cases = 1

What is the student enrollment of your school district?

	Number	Percent
Fewer than 500 students	88	21.8 %
500 to 999 students	102	25.2 %
1,000 to 2,499 students	115	28.5 %
2,500 to 4,999 students	55	13.6 %
5,000 or more students	34	8.4 %
Total	394	97.5 %

Missing Cases = 10

What type of community does your school district serve?

	Number	Percent
Large city- more than 50,000 population	12	3.0 %
Small city- less than 50,000 population	58	14.4 %
Suburban- near large city	139	34.4 %
Rural- small towns and countryside	193	47.8 %
Total	402	99.5 %

Missing Cases = 2

How many schools, if any, does your district have on the State Board of Education's "early academic warning" list or its "academic watch" list?

	Number	Percent
None	286	70.8 %
One school	65	16.1 %
Two schools	25	6.2 %
Three schools	15	3.7 %
More than three schools	12	3.0 %
Total	403	99.8 %

Missing Cases = 1

Is your district on the State Board of Education's "financial early warning" or "financial watch" list?	Number	Percent
Yes	52	12.9 %
No, our district has been designated on the "Financial Review" or "Financial Recognition" list	348	86.1 %
Don't know	2	0.5 %
Total	402	99.5 %

Missing Cases = 2

How do you think people in your community rate the quality of education in your school district?	Number	Percent
Better than average	313	77.5 %
Average	81	20.0 %
Worse than average	8	2.0 %
Total	402	99.5 %

Missing Cases = 2

How important are the newspapers, radio and television media in your area to the public's perceptions of your school district?	Number	Percent
Very important	114	28.2 %
Somewhat important	223	55.2 %
Not important	55	13.6 %
Don't know/No opinion	3	0.7 %
Total	395	97.8 %

Missing Cases = 9

How do you rate the amount and quality of news coverage that your school district receives from newspapers, radio and television?	Number	Percent
News media coverage is generally both thorough and accurate.	73	18.1 %
Coverage is extensive but not particularly accurate.	77	19.1 %
Coverage is generally accurate but not extensive.	157	38.9 %
Our district receives little or no media coverage.	82	20.3 %
No opinion/don't know	4	1.0 %
Total	393	97.3 %

Missing Cases = 11

ABOUT YOU

What is your gender?	Number	Percent
Female	103	25.5 %
Male	298	73.8 %
Total	401	99.3 %

Missing Cases = 3

What is your ethnic background?	Number	Percent
African American	12	3.0 %
Caucasian	385	95.3 %
Hispanic/Mexican/Puerto Rican/Cuban	2	0.5 %
Native American	1	0.2 %
Multi-racial or other	2	0.5 %
Total	402	99.5 %

Missing Cases = 2

What is your age?	Number	Percent
18 to 29 years	1	0.2 %
30 to 39 years	26	6.4 %
40 to 49 years	82	20.3 %
50 to 59 years	218	54.0 %
60 years or over	67	16.6 %
Total	394	97.5 %

Missing Cases = 10

How many years have you served as superintendent in your current school district?	Number	Percent
Less than 12 months	81	20.0 %
One to three years	115	28.5 %
Three to five years	87	21.5 %
Five to nine years	70	17.3 %
More than nine years	40	9.9 %
Total	393	97.3 %

Missing Cases = 11

Please estimate the total amount of time you spend each month attending school board meetings, preparing for meetings, following up after meetings, communicating with board members and all other school board activities.

	Number	Percent
Ten hours or less per month	28	6.9 %
11 to 15 hours per month	83	20.5 %
16 to 20 hours per month	119	29.5 %
21 to 30 hours per month	104	25.7 %
more than 30 hours per month	60	14.9 %
Total	394	97.5 %

Missing Cases = 10

How would you generally describe your experiences as a district superintendent?	Number	Percent
Very satisfying	244	60.4 %
Moderately satisfying	109	27.0 %
Not as satisfying as I had expected it to be	31	7.7 %
Downright disappointing	4	1.0 %
I'm undecided at this point	6	1.5 %
Total	394	97.5 %

Missing Cases = 10

SOURCES OF DISAPPOINTMENT

Have inadequate financial resources been a source of serious disappointment to you as a superintendent?	Number	Percent
Yes, a cause of disappointment	228	56.4 %
Not a cause of disappointment	154	38.1 %
Uncertain	8	2.0 %
Total	390	96.5 %

Missing Cases = 14

Has weak leadership of your board been a source of serious disappointment to you as a superintendent?

	Number	Percent
Yes, a cause of disappointment	112	27.7 %
Not a cause of disappointment	269	66.6 %
Uncertain	8	2.0 %
Total	389	96.3 %

Missing Cases = 15

Has lack of community support been a source of serious disappointment to you as a superintendent?

	Number	Percent
Yes, a cause of disappointment	90	22.3 %
Not a cause of disappointment	285	70.5 %
Uncertain	14	3.5 %
Total	389	96.3 %

Missing Cases = 15

Has disagreement among board members regarding the distinction between board work and staff work been a source of serious disappointment to you as a superintendent?

	Number	Percent
Yes, a cause of disappointment	158	39.1 %
Not a cause of disappointment	226	55.9 %
Uncertain	6	1.5 %
Total	390	96.5 %

Missing Cases = 14

Has excessive interference from state laws been a source of serious disappointment to you as a superintendent?

	Number	Percent
Yes, a cause of disappointment	233	57.7 %
Not a cause of disappointment	125	30.9 %
Uncertain	33	8.2 %
Total	391	96.8 %

Missing Cases = 13

Has partisan or personal politics been a source of serious disappointment to you as a superintendent?

	Number	Percent
Yes, a cause of disappointment	189	46.8 %
Not a cause of disappointment	185	45.8 %
Uncertain	18	4.5 %
Total	392	97.0 %

Missing Cases = 12

Has too much board time devoted to operational affairs and not enough to setting directions and standards and assessing results been a source of serious disappointment to you as a superintendent?

	Number	Percent
Yes, a cause of disappointment	136	33.7 %
Not a cause of disappointment	234	57.9 %
Uncertain	20	5.0 %
Total	390	96.5 %

Missing Cases = 14

Has a lack of community appreciation for the work of the schools been a source of serious disappointment to you as a superintendent?

	Number	Percent
Yes, a cause of disappointment	93	23.0 %
Not a cause of disappointment	275	68.1 %
Uncertain	21	5.2 %
Total	389	96.3 %

Missing Cases = 15

Have student test scores been a source of serious disappointment to you as a superintendent?

	Number	Percent
Yes, a cause of disappointment	107	26.5 %
Not a cause of disappointment	272	67.3 %
Uncertain	11	2.7 %
Total	390	96.5 %

Missing Cases = 14

THE INTERNET AND YOU

Please describe how and where you use the Internet?

	Number	Percent
I primarily access the Internet from district office computers.	336	83.2 %
I primarily access the Internet from my home office computer.	29	7.2 %
I rely more on mobile access to the Internet.	22	5.4 %
I rely primarily on my secretary or other staff for Internet access.	2	0.5 %
I rarely access the Internet.	5	1.2 %
Total	394	97.5 %

Missing Cases = 10

If you personally use the Web, what is the first Web site you see when you first open your browser (your default homepage)?

	Number	Percent
Our school district homepage	217	53.7 %
Homepage of the Illinois State Board of Education	33	8.2 %
Homepage of the Illinois Association of School Administrators	3	0.7 %
Homepage of the Illinois Association of School Boards	0	0.0 %
Other	139	34.4 %
Total	392	97.0 %

Missing Cases = 12

If you personally use the Web, how often have you visited the IASB Web site?

	Number	Percent
Frequently or regularly	92	22.8 %
Occasionally	210	52.0 %
Rarely or never	87	21.5 %
Unaware of IASB Web site	3	0.7 %
I do not use the Internet	2	0.5 %
Total	394	97.5 %

Missing Cases = 10

If you have visited the IASB Web site, how useful did you find it?

	Number	Percent
Not useful	6	1.5 %
Some interesting material.	25	6.2 %
Useful but difficult to use.	76	18.8 %
Useful and easy to use.	189	46.8 %
Have not examined the IASB Web.	98	24.3 %
Total	394	97.5 %

Missing Cases = 10

Do you have an Internet e-mail address allowing you to send and receive messages?

	Number	Percent
Yes, and I use e-mail regularly.	387	95.8 %
Yes, I have access to e-mail but do not use it regularly.	7	1.7 %
No, I do not have access to e-mail.	0	0.0 %
Total	394	97.5 %

Missing Cases = 10

If you use e-mail, how often do you check for new messages?

	Number	Percent
More than once a day	379	93.8 %
About once a day	10	2.5 %
A few times each week	3	0.7 %
Once a week or less	2	0.5 %
Never/Do not have e-mail	0	0.0 %
Total	394	97.5 %

Missing Cases = 10

Would you like to see IASB staff make greater use of e-mail to communicate with superintendents and school board members?

	Number	Percent
Yes	202	50.0 %
No	83	20.5 %
No opinion	109	27.0 %
Total	394	97.5 %

Missing Cases = 10

How often do you use the Internet to transact IASB business, i.e., order books, register for workshops, participate in surveys, etc.?

	Number	Percent
Regularly	74	18.3 %
Occasionally	189	46.8 %
Rarely or never	122	30.2 %
Unaware of IASB's online capabilities	8	2.0 %
Total	393	97.3 %

Missing Cases = 11

Do you subscribe to IASB's free Online Update service?

	Number	Percent
Yes	152	37.6 %
No	133	32.9 %
Unaware of Online Update	107	26.5 %
Total	392	97.0 %

Missing Cases = 12

If you are a subscriber, how would you rate Online

Update service?	Number	Percent
Most information and links are timely and helpful.	80	19.8 %
It occasionally provides timely or helpful links and information.	87	21.5 %
Not many of the links or information are helpful or timely.	37	9.2 %
I no longer use this service and have unsubscribed.	51	12.6 %
Total	255	63.1 %

Missing Cases = 149

SCHOOL BOARD POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

In your opinion, does your school board articulate expectations for the district that are clear and comprehensive enough to allow you, the faculty and staff to aggressively pursue the district's goals?

	Number	Percent
Yes, board expectations are very clear and comprehensive.	128	31.7 %
Yes, but sometimes expectations are not fully articulated.	182	45.0 %
No. Board expectations tend to be vague, often compelling me to put operational issues on the board agenda.	56	13.9 %
No, the board articulates few if any expectations for staff.	22	5.4 %
None of these options fit my situation.	6	1.5 %
Total	394	97.5 %

Missing Cases = 10

Does your school board hold retreats, discussion meetings or study sessions at which issues or problems are discussed but no action is taken?

	Number	Percent
No, my school board holds only business meetings.	129	31.9 %
My board holds a retreat at least once a year lasting a day or more. The retreat is held at our regular meeting place.	74	18.3 %
My board holds a retreat at least once a year lasting a day or more. The retreat is held at another location	53	13.1 %
My board holds study sessions on a rather regular schedule to study and discuss issues.	44	10.9 %
My board occasionally holds a study session to discuss special issues as they arise.	93	23.0 %
Total	393	97.3 %

Missing Cases = 11

How frequently does your board convene in closed meetings (executive sessions)?

	Number	Percent
Twice a month at every regular meeting	26	6.4 %
Once a month at every regular meeting	158	39.1 %
At most regular meetings	111	27.5 %
Periodically as needed	98	24.3 %
Total	393	97.3 %

Missing Cases = 11

Do your school board policies on student misconduct involving drugs or alcohol at school allow for any discretion on the part of the board or administrators when determining the punishment for a violation?	Number	Percent
No discretion is allowed. Consequences are set by the policy.	41	10.1 %
Yes, our policy allows the school board to deal with students on an individual basis.	135	33.4 %
Yes, our policy allows the superintendent to deal with students on an individual basis.	54	13.4 %
Yes, our policy allows building administrators to deal with students on an individual basis.	156	38.6 %
Do not know/None of the above	4	1.0 %
Total	390	96.5 %

Missing Cases = 14

Does your school district require random drug/alcohol testing of students for extra-curricular participation?	Number	Percent
Yes, a drug testing policy covers extra-curricular participation.	39	9.7 %
No, but such a policy is being considered.	40	9.9 %
No, such a policy was considered and rejected.	26	6.4 %
No, such a policy has not been considered.	286	70.8 %
Don't know/None of the above.	3	0.7 %
Total	394	97.5 %

Missing Cases = 10

Does your school district permit home-schooled students to take part in school athletics or other extra-curricular activities?	Number	Percent
Yes, we now have one or more home-school students who take part in extra-curricular activities.	96	23.8 %
No, our district has denied access to extra-curricular programs for one or more home-schooled students.	135	33.4 %
Our district has not been asked to provide any home-schooled student with access to extra-curricular activities.	159	39.4 %
Total	390	96.5 %

Missing Cases = 14

Has your school district enrolled any home-schooled students on a part-time basis in your school's academic program?	Number	Percent
Yes, we now have one or more home-school students who attend selected classes on a part-time basis.	167	41.3 %
No, our district has denied part-time enrollment in classes for one or more home-schooled students.	55	13.6 %
Our district has not been asked to provide any home-schooled student with access to academic classes.	171	42.3 %
Total	393	97.3 %

Missing Cases = 11

SCHOOL BOARD IMPROVEMENT

My school board needs to make changes
in the way it functions.

	Number	Percent
Completely Agree	46	11.4 %
Tend to Agree	86	21.3 %
Uncertain	28	6.9 %
Tend to Disagree	124	30.7 %
Disagree Completely	110	27.2 %
Total	394	97.5 %

Missing Cases = 10

My school board needs to communicate a more up-to-date
vision for public education in our community.

	Number	Percent
Completely Agree	31	7.7 %
Tend to Agree	110	27.2 %
Uncertain	27	6.7 %
Tend to Disagree	114	28.2 %
Disagree Completely	111	27.5 %
Total	393	97.3 %

Missing Cases = 11

My school board needs a better way to evaluate the
superintendent's performance.

	Number	Percent
Completely Agree	54	13.4 %
Tend to Agree	88	21.8 %
Uncertain	55	13.6 %
Tend to Disagree	114	28.2 %
Disagree Completely	82	20.3 %
Total	393	97.3 %

Missing Cases = 11

My school board should learn how to assert more
effective leadership.

	Number	Percent
Completely Agree	35	8.7 %
Tend to Agree	76	18.8 %
Uncertain	36	8.9 %
Tend to Disagree	138	34.2 %
Disagree Completely	109	27.0 %
Total	394	97.5 %

Missing Cases = 10

My school board needs to function more
effectively as a team.

	Number	Percent
Completely Agree	65	16.1 %
Tend to Agree	81	20.0 %
Uncertain	21	5.2 %
Tend to Disagree	107	26.5 %
Disagree Completely	120	29.7 %
Total	394	97.5 %

Missing Cases = 10

My school board should spend more time dealing with goals and expectations and less time with operational matters.	Number	Percent
Completely Agree	88	21.8 %
Tend to Agree	108	26.7 %
Uncertain	30	7.4 %
Tend to Disagree	84	20.8 %
Disagree Completely	84	20.8 %
Total	394	97.5 %

Missing Cases = 10

My school board needs to be more effective in building community support for district goals.	Number	Percent
Completely Agree	56	13.9 %
Tend to Agree	130	32.2 %
Uncertain	35	8.7 %
Tend to Disagree	99	24.5 %
Disagree Completely	73	18.1 %
Total	393	97.3 %

Missing Cases = 11

How often does your school board talk about its own processes or performance for more than 20 minutes at a time?	Number	Percent
At least once every month	16	4.0 %
Once every two or three months	41	10.1 %
About twice a year	81	20.0 %
Once a year	114	28.2 %
Never or almost never	140	34.7 %
Total	392	97.0 %

Missing Cases = 12

Has your board discussed its meeting procedures and rules?	Number	Percent
Discussed at length	54	13.4 %
Touched on briefly	197	48.8 %
Not discussed	109	27.0 %
Don't recall	22	5.4 %
Total	382	94.6 %

Missing Cases = 22

Has your board discussed its role as contrasted to the role of the superintendent and/or staff?	Number	Percent
Discussed at length	80	19.8 %
Touched on briefly	183	45.3 %
Not discussed	100	24.8 %
Don't recall	17	4.2 %
Total	380	94.1 %

Missing Cases = 24

Has your board discussed the orientation of new members?	Number	Percent
Discussed at length	72	17.8 %
Touched on briefly	204	50.5 %
Not discussed	90	22.3 %
Don't recall	15	3.7 %
Total	381	94.3 %

Missing Cases = 23

Has your board discussed getting the public involved in district planning?	Number	Percent
Discussed at length	84	20.8 %
Touched on briefly	159	39.4 %
Not discussed	117	29.0 %
Don't recall	22	5.4 %
Total	382	94.6 %

Missing Cases = 22

Has your board discussed its decision making processes?	Number	Percent
Discussed at length	60	14.9 %
Touched on briefly	186	46.0 %
Not discussed	112	27.7 %
Don't recall	24	5.9 %
Total	382	94.6 %

Missing Cases = 22

Has your board discussed its relationship with the community?	Number	Percent
Discussed at length	85	21.0 %
Touched on briefly	181	44.8 %
Not discussed	95	23.5 %
Don't recall	20	5.0 %
Total	381	94.3 %

Missing Cases = 23

Has your board discussed its relationship with the staff ?	Number	Percent
Discussed at length	70	17.3 %
Touched on briefly	197	48.8 %
Not discussed	99	24.5 %
Don't recall	15	3.7 %
Total	381	94.3 %

Missing Cases = 23

Has your board discussed community or board expectations expressed as district mission, vision or goals?	Number	Percent
Discussed at length	134	33.2 %
Touched on briefly	150	37.1 %
Not discussed	77	19.1 %
Don't recall	20	5.0 %
Total	381	94.3 %

Missing Cases = 23

REDUCING SCHOOL BOARD TURNOVER

To reduce school board turnover, would it help to provide compensation or other tangible benefits for board members?	Number	Percent
Yes, this change probably would help reduce turnover.	49	12.1 %
No, it probably would not help.	161	39.9 %
This change might make the situation worse.	155	38.4 %
No opinion	28	6.9 %
Total	393	97.3 %

Missing Cases = 11

To reduce school board turnover, would it help to require all school board members to obtain at least some formal orientation or training for the job?

	Number	Percent
Yes, this change probably would help reduce turnover.	223	55.2 %
No, it probably would not help.	98	24.3 %
This change might make the situation worse.	54	13.4 %
No opinion	19	4.7 %
Total	394	97.5 %

Missing Cases = 10

To reduce school board turnover, would it help to switch terms of office to three years with annual elections?

	Number	Percent
Yes, this change probably would help reduce turnover.	55	13.6 %
No, it probably would not help.	159	39.4 %
This change might make the situation worse.	119	29.5 %
No opinion	61	15.1 %
Total	394	97.5 %

Missing Cases = 10

To reduce school board turnover, would it help to remove operational issues from the board agenda and delegate them to the superintendent and staff?

	Number	Percent
Yes, this change probably would help reduce turnover.	194	48.0 %
No, it probably would not help.	121	30.0 %
This change might make the situation worse.	23	5.7 %
No opinion	56	13.9 %
Total	394	97.5 %

Missing Cases = 10

To reduce school board turnover, would it help to make the level of school funding more consistent with the high expectations of the state and/or local community?

	Number	Percent
Yes, this change probably would help reduce turnover.	304	75.2 %
No, it probably would not help.	54	13.4 %
This change might make the situation worse.	4	1.0 %
No opinion	31	7.7 %
Total	393	97.3 %

Missing Cases = 11

What is the one best thing that IASB could do to make school board service more satisfying?

	Number	Percent
Teach school boards to distinguish between what is properly “board work” and what is “staff work.”	232	57.4 %
Educate the public to better support the work of school boards.	69	17.1 %
Convince the legislature to delegate more authority to school boards.	52	12.9 %
Provide recognition for boards or board members.	20	5.0 %
None of the above	19	4.7 %
Total	392	97.0 %

Missing Cases = 12

If all school board members were required by law to participate in a minimum number of workshops or other training, how do you think most board members and candidates would respond?

	Number	Percent
Most members and candidates would support it and participate.	117	29.0 %
Most would oppose it but would participate as required.	167	41.3 %
Most would decide to not run for the school board.	81	20.0 %
I am undecided or don't know.	28	6.9 %
Total	393	97.3 %

Missing Cases = 11

ABOUT SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT

Rate your school district's wages and working conditions necessary to attract capable principals and teachers.

	Number	Percent
Satisfactory	311	77.0 %
Not satisfactory	72	17.8 %
Undecided	10	2.5 %
Total	393	97.3 %

Missing Cases = 11

Rate your school district's expectations and standards that administrators and teachers have for themselves and for students

	Number	Percent
Satisfactory	329	81.4 %
Not satisfactory	55	13.6 %
Undecided	8	2.0 %
Total	392	97.0 %

Missing Cases = 12

Rate your school district's community involvement in setting district policies and standards.

	Number	Percent
Satisfactory	195	48.3 %
Not satisfactory	139	34.4 %
Undecided	59	14.6 %
Total	393	97.3 %

Missing Cases = 11

Rate your school district's local effort (tax rate) to finance schools

	Number	Percent
Satisfactory	257	63.6 %
Not satisfactory	119	29.5 %
Undecided	17	4.2 %
Total	393	97.3 %

Missing Cases = 11

In your opinion, which of the following actions would make the most significant improvement in your school district?

	Number	Percent
Raise standards for performance of teachers and administrators.	79	19.6 %
Increase investment in technology.	64	15.8 %
Increase parent-teacher cooperation and teamwork.	135	33.4 %
Improve the performance of the school board.	45	11.1 %
None of the above would be improvements.	69	17.1 %
Total	392	97.0 %

Missing Cases = 12

Which of the following changes in the school board do you think would make the most significant improvement for your school district?

	Number	Percent
Recruit board candidates who are better qualified	75	18.6 %
Re-orient the board to provide better leadership	90	22.3 %
Provide better educational programs for board members	90	22.3 %
Increase community involvement in establishing aims and standards	59	14.6 %
None of the above would be improvements	79	19.6 %
Total	393	97.3 %

Missing Cases = 11

Which of the following do you think is the biggest obstacle to good education in your school district?

	Number	Percent
Too many social problems confronting the schools	132	32.7 %
Too many state regulations and restrictions	160	39.6 %
The community's low aspirations for its schools and children	39	9.7 %
Inadequate leadership from the board and/or administration	12	3.0 %
Unionized teachers	48	11.9 %
Total	391	96.8 %

Missing Cases = 13

Which is the bigger obstacle to good education, lack of funding or the obstacle you checked in the question above?

	Number	Percent
The obstacle I checked above is bigger than lack of money.	158	39.1 %
Lack of money is the bigger obstacle.	194	48.0 %
Undecided or equal in importance	40	9.9 %
Total	392	97.0 %

Missing Cases = 12

How do you believe the federal No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) has affected your school district?

	Number	Percent
NCLB has had a very positive impact.	57	14.1 %
Impact has been modest but validates what we are already doing.	122	30.2 %
NCLB has had little or no impact on our district.	42	10.4 %
NCLB has forced us to use time and money in unproductive ways.	162	40.1 %
Don't know/No opinion	8	2.0 %
Total	391	96.8 %

Missing Cases = 13

How do you believe the federal No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) is affecting your school district right now?

	Number	Percent
Focusing the efforts of all stakeholders on school improvement.	116	28.7 %
Has not generated much interest, activity or change.	75	18.6 %
Creates fear that our district will not meet NCLB standards.	156	38.6 %
There is a lack of clarity as to what we must or should do	20	5.0 %
Don't know/No opinion	25	6.2 %
Total	392	97.0 %

Missing Cases = 12

Does your school district currently qualify for help from the Illinois State Board of Education in meeting NCLB requirements?

	Number	Percent
Yes	79	19.6 %
No	294	72.8 %
Don't know	19	4.7 %
Total	392	97.0 %

Missing Cases = 12

If your school district currently qualifies for help from the Illinois State Board of Education in meeting NCLB standards, are you receiving — or do you expect to soon receive — all the help you need from ISBE?

	Number	Percent
Yes, ISBE is providing all the help we expect to need.	22	5.4 %
Not yet, but we believe ISBE will provide all the help we need.	10	2.5 %
No, we expect to need additional help.	47	11.6 %
We do not qualify for ISBE assistance at this time.	204	50.5 %
Don't know/No opinion	69	17.1 %
Total	352	87.1 %

Missing Cases = 52

Are you familiar with IASB's "Targeting Achievement through Governance" (TAG) program that assists districts having difficulty meeting AYP?

	Number	Percent
Yes, I am familiar with TAG, and we have used this service.	57	14.1 %
Yes, I am familiar with TAG, but we do not participate.	77	19.1 %
Yes, but we have not needed this service.	88	21.8 %
No, I am not familiar with TAG, but we could use assistance.	33	8.2 %
No, but we do not need assistance at this time.	137	33.9 %
Total	392	97.0 %

Missing Cases = 12

If you have used IASB's TAG program, how was your experience?

	Number	Percent
Very positive	34	8.4 %
Somewhat positive	58	14.4 %
Somewhat negative	15	3.7 %
Negative	7	1.7 %
Total	114	28.2 %

Missing Cases = 290

How do you feel about the future of education in your school district?	Number	Percent
Very optimistic.	135	33.4 %
Somewhat optimistic .	218	54.0 %
Somewhat pessimistic.	30	7.4 %
Very pessimistic.	4	1.0 %
I am undecided at this point	6	1.5 %
Total	393	97.3 %

Missing Cases = 11

How do you feel about the future of education generally in the state of Illinois?	Number	Percent
Very optimistic.	10	2.5 %
Somewhat optimistic.	147	36.4 %
Somewhat pessimistic.	146	36.1 %
Very pessimistic.	85	21.0 %
I am undecided at this point.	5	1.2 %
Total	393	97.3 %

Missing Cases = 11

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER TRAINING

The Illinois Association of School Boards urges school boards to live by six “Foundational Principles of Effective School Governance.” Are you familiar with these six principles?

	Number	Percent
No, I have not heard about the IASB “Foundational Principles.”	35	8.7 %
I have heard about them but I am not familiar with them.	77	19.1 %
Yes, I am generally familiar with the principles.	175	43.3 %
Yes, I know the principles but I do not agree with them.	2	0.5 %
Yes, and I try to help my board live by the principles.	104	25.7 %
Total	393	97.3 %

Missing Cases = 11

What was the source for most of your information about the IASB “Foundational Principles of Effective School Governance?”

	Number	Percent
I read about the principles in an Association publication.	204	50.5 %
The principles were discussed at an IASB workshop or meeting.	88	21.8 %
A member of my board or another superintendent told me them.	14	3.5 %
I found the principles on the IASB Web site.	52	12.9 %
I have not heard about the IASB principles.	31	7.7 %
Total	389	96.3 %

Missing Cases = 15

Have you attended one of the workshops that IASB offers for newly elected school board members?

	Number	Percent
No	251	62.1 %
Yes, I attended a new board member workshop prior to 2001.	29	7.2 %
Yes, I attended a new board member workshop after 2001.	82	20.3 %
Yes, I regularly attend with new board members.	22	5.4 %
Do not recall	6	1.5 %
Total	390	96.5 %

Missing Cases = 14

How do you feel personally about training for members of school boards?	Number	Percent
School board members need all the training they can get.	151	37.4 %
A certain amount of training in the basics is essential for all.	156	38.6 %
Most board members need some training.	49	12.1 %
Training for board members can be helpful but not essential.	32	7.9 %
School board members should not need any particular training.	4	1.0 %
Total	392	97.0 %

Missing Cases = 12

How do you feel personally about the state's proposal to mandate training for members of school boards?	Number	Percent
The proposed four-hour minimum training is not adequate	70	17.3 %
The proposed mandatory training is adequate	120	29.7 %
The proposed four-hour minimum requirement is adequate.	43	10.6 %
School board training should not be required	151	37.4 %
Training for board members can be helpful but not essential.	9	2.2 %
Total	393	97.3 %

Missing Cases = 11

Would you like to receive more or better information regarding the training programs that IASB makes available for school board members?	Number	Percent
No, I already receive more information than I really want.	45	11.1 %
No, I feel adequately informed.	218	54.0 %
I wish the information were more thorough.	63	15.6 %
Yes. I don't seem to receive enough information.	60	14.9 %
I rarely hear about IASB training programs and prefer it that way.	7	1.7 %
Total	393	97.3 %

Missing Cases = 11

EVALUATION OF IASB WORKSHOPS AND MEETINGS

IASB often sponsors regional workshops on such topics as school finance, collective bargaining, school governance, policy development and legal issues. How many IASB workshops do you attend each year (on average)?	Number	Percent
Four or more per year	15	3.7 %
Two or three per year	127	31.4 %
One per year	175	43.3 %
None	76	18.8 %
Total	393	97.3 %

Missing Cases = 11

How do you most often find out about IASB conferences and workshops?	Number	Percent
From announcements that come to me in the mail.	284	70.3 %
By visiting the IASB Web site.	17	4.2 %
Members of my board usually inform me of upcoming events.	2	0.5 %
From a variety of sources.	83	20.5 %
I usually/often am not aware of IASB workshops and conferences.	7	1.7 %
Total	393	97.3 %

Missing Cases = 11

What do you consider the single most **positive** feature about workshops offered by IASB?

	Number	Percent
Workshop topics and content are relevant to my needs.	162	40.1 %
Speakers almost always teach me what I need to know.	22	5.4 %
Locations and times of workshops are convenient for me.	26	6.4 %
Cost is reasonable.	17	4.2 %
They provide an opportunity to interact with superintendents and board members from other districts.	143	35.4 %
Total	370	91.6 %

Missing Cases = 34

What do you consider the single most **negative** feature about workshops offered by IASB?

	Number	Percent
Workshop topics and content are not relevant to my needs.	51	12.6 %
Speakers tend to be boring or ill-prepared.	47	11.6 %
Locations and times of workshops are not convenient for me.	148	36.6 %
Cost is too high.	30	7.4 %
Not enough time is allowed for me to interact with superintendents and board members from other districts.	81	20.0 %
Total	357	88.4 %

Missing Cases = 47

What is the single most important reason you do not attend IASB workshops?

	Number	Percent
Workshops often are held at inconvenient times or places.	77	19.1 %
I often am unaware of the workshops.	16	4.0 %
Topics usually do not seem relevant for me.	34	8.4 %
There are too many other demands on my time.	210	52.0 %
I find most workshops are repetitive for me	41	10.1 %
Total	378	93.6 %

Missing Cases = 26

Do you and/or members of your school board find that conferences and workshops conducted by IASB provide adequate value in return for the time and money you invest?

	Number	Percent
Value is consistently good to excellent.	201	49.8 %
Value is consistently fair to poor.	14	3.5 %
Value varies widely	127	31.4 %
No opinion.	45	11.1 %
Total	387	95.8 %

Missing Cases = 17

Is there anything that IASB could do that would entice you and/or members of your board to attend more regional workshops? Please check only one response.

	Number	Percent
Reduce the cost of registration, lodging, meals, travel, etc.	29	7.2 %
Develop new workshops on topics of interest to veterans.	88	21.8 %
Shorten the workshops to consume less time.	39	9.7 %
All of the above	162	40.1 %
None of the above	73	18.1 %
Total	391	96.8 %

Missing Cases = 13

Is there anything else that IASB could do that would entice you and/or members of your board to attend more regional workshops?

	Number	Percent
Offer activities for participant's families at the workshops.	16	4.0 %
Offer longer workshops covering greater breadth or depth.	24	5.9 %
Reduce the driving distance to the workshops.	129	31.9 %
All of the above.	68	16.8 %
None of the above.	150	37.1 %
Total	387	95.8 %

Missing Cases = 17

In your opinion, what is the one most important reason that more school board members do not attend their IASB Division Dinner Meetings?

	Number	Percent
There are too many demands on their time	296	73.3 %
Program topics do not seem relevant or useful.	20	5.0 %
Too little advance information is made available.	5	1.2 %
Many board members have no interest in keeping informed.	24	5.9 %
Division Meetings tend to be "more of the same" for veterans.	43	10.6 %
Total	388	96.0 %

Missing Cases = 16

In your opinion, what is the one most important benefit of attending IASB's regional Division Dinner meetings?

	Number	Percent
Opportunity to talk with officials from other school districts.	215	53.2 %
Everyone can find at least one topic of value on the program.	44	10.9 %
An opportunity for board members to socialize.	28	6.9 %
Useful information is disseminated at Division Meetings.	30	7.4 %
None of the above/uncertain	74	18.3 %
Total	391	96.8 %

Missing Cases = 13

How thoroughly do you read The Illinois School Board Journal?

	Number	Percent
I read all or most of the articles in every issue.	93	23.0 %
I read some articles in every issue.	158	39.1 %
I read some articles in most issues.	115	28.5 %
I often find nothing I want to read.	14	3.5 %
I never examine the Journal.	11	2.7 %
Total	391	96.8 %

Missing Cases = 13

If you DO NOT READ Illinois School Board Journal regularly, please tell us why.

	Number	Percent
I do not recall seeing the Journal.	12	3.0 %
I would like to read the Journal, but rarely have time.	77	19.1 %
The Journal rarely offers anything of interest or value to me.	12	3.0 %
I prefer to read other publications.	11	2.7 %
The Journal simply does not appeal to me.	9	2.2 %
Total	121	30.0 %

Missing Cases = 283

How thoroughly do you read IASB

School Board Newsbulletin?	Number	Percent
I read all or most of the news in every issue.	118	29.2 %
I read some news in every issue.	138	34.2 %
I read something in most issues.	90	22.3 %
I often find nothing I want to read.	14	3.5 %
I never examine the Newsbulletin.	30	7.4 %
Total	390	96.5 %

Missing Cases = 14

If you DO NOT READ the Newsbulletin regularly, please tell us why.

	Number	Percent
I do not recall seeing the Newsbulletin	28	6.9 %
I would like to read the Newsbulletin, but rarely have time.	77	19.1 %
The Newsbulletin rarely offers anything of interest or value.	24	5.9 %
I prefer to read other publications.	11	2.7 %
The Newsbulletin simply does not appeal to me.	8	2.0 %
Total	148	36.6 %

Missing Cases = 256

Please grade The Illinois School Board Journal	Number	Percent
Excellent	114	28.2 %
Good	209	51.7 %
Fair	50	12.4 %
Weak	2	0.5 %
Poor	9	2.2 %
Total	384	95.0 %

Missing Cases = 20

Please grade the IASB School Board Newsbulletin	Number	Percent
Excellent	87	21.5 %
Good	199	49.3 %
Fair	76	18.8 %
Weak	9	2.2 %
Poor	8	2.0 %
Total	379	93.8 %

Missing Cases = 25

Each year IASB publishes an Annual Report of Services that (a) reviews activities of the previous fiscal year, (b) outlines services available to member districts and (c) identifies staff members who deliver various services. Please tell us whether you find this publication useful.

	Number	Percent
I examine this publication but rarely use it after that.	104	25.7 %
I value this publication and refer to it for information.	45	11.1 %
I keep this publication available but rarely use it.	102	25.2 %
This publication has not been useful to me.	107	26.5 %
I do not recall seeing this publication.	29	7.2 %
Total	387	95.8 %

Missing Cases = 17

Listed below are various ways that IASB might deliver information to you. Please indicate your preference.

	Number	Percent
Printed information delivered by mail.	158	39.1 %
Printed information delivered by FAX.	3	0.7 %
Information delivered by e-mail.	208	51.5 %
Information delivered on CDs.	5	1.2 %
None of the above/Undecided	15	3.7 %
Total	389	96.3 %

Missing Cases = 15

CONTACTING IASB STAFF

About how often have you telephoned IASB staff during the past 12 months for information or assistance?

	Number	Percent
Five or more times	59	14.6 %
Two to four times	180	44.6 %
Once	65	16.1 %
Did not call IASB staff during the past 12 months	87	21.5 %
Total	391	96.8 %

Missing Cases = 13

When you call the IASB office, how pleasant is the usual experience?

	Number	Percent
Very pleasant	197	48.8 %
Usually pleasant	86	21.3 %
Sometimes pleasant, but there are often problems	6	1.5 %
Usually not pleasant	5	1.2 %
I have not called during the past year/No opinion	37	9.2 %
Total	331	81.9 %

Missing Cases = 73

About how often have you used e-mail to contact IASB staff during the past 12 months for information or assistance?

	Number	Percent
Five or more times	56	13.9 %
Two to four times	115	28.5 %
Once	53	13.1 %
Did not e-mail IASB staff during the past 12 months.	161	39.9 %
Total	385	95.3 %

Missing Cases = 19

When you send e-mail to the IASB staff, how effective is the usual result?

	Number	Percent
Very effective	177	43.8 %
Sometimes effective, sometimes not.	33	8.2 %
Rarely if ever effective	3	0.7 %
I have not e-mailed the IASB staff during the past year.	48	11.9 %
Total	261	64.6 %

Missing Cases = 143

How cooperative and helpful did you find the IASB staff when you contacted them for information or assistance?

	Number	Percent
IASB staff members are always cooperative and helpful.	259	64.1 %
They are usually cooperative and helpful.	59	14.6 %
Somewhat cooperative and helpful.	11	2.7 %
Rarely or never cooperative or helpful.	3	0.7 %
Have not contacted staff for assistance.	53	13.1 %
Total	385	95.3 %

Missing Cases = 19

If you have ever left a message requesting a return call or e-mail from a member of the IASB staff, have you ever failed to receive the return call?

	Number	Percent
The IASB staff always returns my calls or e-mails promptly.	239	59.2 %
Sometimes there is a lengthy delay.	29	7.2 %
I failed to receive a return call or e-mail one time.	9	2.2 %
The staff failed to return my calls and/or e-mails several times.	5	1.2 %
I have not asked for a return call or e-mail.	101	25.0 %
Total	383	94.8 %

Missing Cases = 21

Other than a face-to-face meeting, how do you prefer to communicate with a member of the IASB staff?

	Number	Percent
Correspond via U.S. Mail	13	3.2 %
Exchange messages via FAX	1	0.2 %
Communicate via Internet e-mail	179	44.3 %
Communicate via telephone	162	40.1 %
No opinion	30	7.4 %
Total	385	95.3 %

Missing Cases = 19

How do you rate the IASB staff in terms of their availability, knowledge and desire to help you?

	Number	Percent
I always or almost always reach someone at IASB who is knowledgeable and willing to help me.	285	70.5 %
It is sometimes hard to find someone at IASB who can help me.	22	5.4 %
Staff often seem to lack the knowledge needed to help.	9	2.2 %
Staff often seem disinterested in my needs.	3	0.7 %
Don't know/No opinion	70	17.3 %
Total	389	96.3 %

Missing Cases = 15

How do you feel about the voice-mail system used at the IASB office?

	Number	Percent
I like it.	65	16.1 %
I can tolerate it.	139	34.4 %
I despise it.	17	4.2 %
Undecided	58	14.4 %
Have not used it.	109	27.0 %
Total	388	96.0 %

Missing Cases = 16

How easy or difficult is it to register for an IASB workshop or meeting?

	Number	Percent
Always easy and hassle-free	283	70.0 %
Sometimes a challenge	35	8.7 %
Frequently unpleasant	1	0.2 %
Don't know/No opinion	66	16.3 %
Total	385	95.3 %

Missing Cases = 19

Individual school boards sometimes invite a member of the IASB staff to meet with them to provide a customized workshop, board self-evaluation, superintendent search, goal setting or other direct assistance. If you can recall such direct assistance from a member of the IASB staff, please tell how you felt about the outcome of the activity.

	Number	Percent
We tried but were unable to schedule an activity with IASB.	9	2.2 %
Yes, and the results met or exceeded expectations.	199	49.3 %
Yes, but the outcome did not live up to expectations.	45	11.1 %
Yes, but the event was quite unsatisfactory.	5	1.2 %
Don't know/Don't recall.	130	32.2 %
Total	388	96.0 %

Missing Cases = 16

Has your school board ever taken part in a Board Self-Evaluation with a member of the IASB staff?

	Number	Percent
Yes	195	48.3 %
No	156	38.6 %
Don't recall	41	10.1 %
Total	392	97.0 %

Missing Cases = 12

If you answered NO to the above question, what is the primary reason that your board has not used the IASB Board Self-Evaluation Service?

	Number	Percent
The subject has simply not come up	87	21.5 %
My board has decided that it does not need this activity.	51	12.6 %
We cannot afford it.	20	5.0 %
The board tried but was unable to schedule it yet.	15	3.7 %
The board is too busy with other matters.	15	3.7 %
Total	188	46.5 %

Missing Cases = 216

If you answered YES to participation in a Board Self-Evaluation, please tell us how you feel about the experience.

	Number	Percent
My board benefited a great deal	105	26.0 %
My board gained useful insights but no specific improvements.	83	20.5 %
Self evaluation was mostly a waste of time.	15	3.7 %
Created some problems that we did not have before.	15	3.7 %
Total	218	54.0 %

Missing Cases = 186

Which of the following do you believe is the most accurate description of IASB?

	Number	Percent
Helps boards pursue high standards.	107	26.5 %
Provides services school districts need to be effective and efficient.	105	26.0 %
Speaks for all school boards before the legislature and public.	13	3.2 %
All of the above	148	36.6 %
None of the above	13	3.2 %
Total	386	95.5 %

Missing Cases = 18

Do you prefer to receive materials from IASB for distribution to members of your board?

	Number	Percent
Yes, I prefer to distribute information to my board members whenever feasible.	188	46.5 %
No, I prefer that IASB send materials directly to members of my board.	107	26.5 %
Either approach is satisfactory.	93	23.0 %
Total	388	96.0 %

Missing Cases = 16

When IASB sends material directly to members of your board, do you wish to receive a copy?

	Number	Percent
Yes, I think it is important to receive a copy of whatever is sent to my board members.	361	89.4 %
No, I prefer to not receive these materials.	6	1.5 %
Either approach is satisfactory.	19	4.7 %
Total	386	95.5 %

Missing Cases = 18