

School Board Governance Recognition Guidelines

All IASB member school boards are invited to apply for School Board Governance Recognition which covers a two-year period — July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2026. Once this recognition is received, boards may apply for renewal every two years. Boards that received recognition in 2025 can reapply in 2027.

The application process is rigorous and requires the involvement of the entire board of education and superintendent over a two-year period. Applicants are encouraged to review each of the requirements in advance to ensure a proper submission.

Recipients of this recognition will be acknowledged at their Division Meeting in early 2027, and in the IASB Member Hub at the 2026 Joint Annual Conference in November.

To be considered for this recognition, the following application must be completed, verified by the board president, and submitted no later than August 1, 2026.

To be eligible for the School Board Governance Recognition, applicants must meet all the requirements.

Good governance requires commitment to improvement and continual board development. Adopting policies and attending workshops are just the beginning. This recognition is intended to honor boards that model best practices on an ongoing basis.

Applicants are asked to submit documentation that shows the work of good governance.

Unless noted, responses directing the Governance Recognition Committee to view the district website will not be considered.

Directions and Recommendations

- Preview the application and the requirements before you gather your materials.
- Collect and organize the supporting files and resources you must upload.
- You can now save your progress and return to the same spot you left off. You do not need to complete the application in one sitting.
- You will receive an automatic email verifying that your application has been received.
- Applications must be completed and submitted **by 5 p.m., AUGUST 1, 2026**. Incomplete applications will not be considered.
- If you have questions or issues, please contact Miranda Sexton at msexton@iasb.com or (217) 528-9688, ext. 1118.

Application Questions

- A. Adopting and communicating written mission/vision and goals. The board has a responsibility to clarify district purpose through its unique mission, vision, and goal-setting process.**
- Submit a brief description of your efforts to communicate your mission, vision, and goals to district stakeholders (staff, parents, community, etc.).
 - Attach documentation containing the current mission, vision, and goals from above question.
- B. Connecting with the community on issues of importance to the district. Effective boards engage in two-way communication with district parents, staff, and community members.**
- Submit a brief description of the process(es) used for your board's community connection activities (e.g., surveys, district planning sessions, focus groups, etc.). How is your board informing your community? How are you listening to your community?
- C. Having and implementing a superintendent evaluation process that culminates in a formal annual superintendent evaluation. The board has a responsibility to communicate expectations and provide meaningful feedback regarding performance.**
- Submit a brief description of the process that involves the steps, timeline, and a description of the superintendent evaluation instrument.
- D. Conducting regular policy reviews and maintaining a current, updated policy manual. Good governance requires the board to maintain up-to-date policies in order to give direction to the district.**
- Submit a brief description of the policymaking, review, and updating processes used by your board. Include the meeting dates when the board discussed policy revisions over the past two years.
 - Provide the URL to the district's policy manual on the district's website, if available.
- E. Monitoring progress toward district ends (mission/vision, goals) with the use of data.**
- Submit a brief written description of the board's efforts to monitor progress by reviewing data.



F. Implementing an orientation process for newly seated board members that minimally includes an overview of the district and board processes and involves both the superintendent and veteran board members.

- a. Submit a brief description of your orientation process.
- b. Attach a copy of any relevant agenda or meeting documentation that will show a formal process to orient new board members - beyond the board reorganization meeting.

G. Having an agreed-upon, written, and adopted code of conduct.

- a. Attach documentation of the district's Code of Conduct.

H. Collectively and individually, taking responsibility for continuous learning and development as a board.

- a. Submit a description of the learning activities, workshops, and training undertaken by (1) individual board members and (2) the full board. Detailed information regarding how these opportunities, including IASB workshops and events, impacted the governance of the board.

I. Positively impacting outcomes for students and improving organizational effectiveness.

- a. Submit a description of the projects initiated by the board of education intended to improve student learning and/or organization effectiveness. Examples include, but are not limited to, equity initiatives, student learning improvement programs, building projects, financial stabilization plans, or other local initiatives designed to positively impact the district. This section is an opportunity to tell your story.

J. Summary

- a. Describe how conducting the work detailed in this application has impacted the governance of your school district. This response should be provided by a board member.