



A system of **EVALUATION** starts at the TOP with the **School Board Self-Evaluation**

What is a school board self-evaluation?

A school board self-evaluation is a key step on the road to governance excellence. Every board wants to provide quality leadership for the district. A fundamental part of quality is regularly assessing how the board is doing – in both its work and processes.

The best school boards recognize that in order for them to be effective, they need to take responsibility for their work and processes. When boards and board members develop a strong commitment to continuously evaluate and improve their practices and procedures, they are able to provide creative, decisive leadership for their district. IASB is available to help member boards meet this important challenge.

An IASB facilitated board self-evaluation is not an attempt by an outsider to evaluate the board, nor is it an exercise in blame-fixing or finger-pointing. The board self-evaluation is a means by which a board, as a governance team, steps back and looks at itself, critically examines its strengths and weaknesses, and makes plans for continuous improvement.

A board self-evaluation serves many purposes including:

- Gathering the perceptions of all board members,
- Fostering dialogue,
- Improving the board's understanding of its role and decision-making processes,
- Identifying next steps for board learning and growth, and
- Ensuring continuous board improvement.

What do board members say about an IASB facilitated board self-evaluation?

“Good chance to build some teamwork.”

“Allowed everyone to express their thoughts on the make up of the board.”

“Having aired some past baggage, hopefully now we can move forward.”

“Open discussion among board members, with helpful facilitation.”

“Agreeing to do things differently – ‘rules of engagement.’ (We were in a rut of repeating the same patterns over and over).”

“More tolerance and willingness to allow for difference of opinion.”

“The board now has a common language about how the board conducts the business of the board.”

Quotes from actual meeting evaluations.

How do we get started? It's as easy as 1-2-3

1. Contact your IASB field services director to discuss goals, process, and timelines. Our staff will make every effort to meet the specific needs of your board. The process usually begins with establishing a date for the in-district session. A dedicated meeting of 2 ½ to 3 hours seems best.
2. The board, generally through the superintendent and board president, and IASB discuss and select the best format for the meeting. Among the options available are two proven board self-evaluation instruments. Both are available online. Most boards find the online format to be convenient, efficient, and easy.
3. Board members individually complete the survey provided by IASB (either online or on paper) and submit to IASB. The field services director prepares a report for the board. This report is used to facilitate the board's conversation at the meeting.

The Illinois Open Meetings Act allows boards to meet in closed session for the purpose of self-evaluation “when meeting with a representative of a statewide association of which the public body is a member.” 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(16). The board can choose whether to meet in closed or open session.

A small fee for this service covers all expenses including IASB staff travel and the self-evaluation report. Fees for any additional follow-up workshops requested by the board as a result of this session will be quoted as provided in the IASB Field Services Catalog.

IASB recommends boards participate in some form of board self-evaluation annually. The self-evaluation process can help the board to strengthen things it already does well or address areas of challenge. With continuous improvement in mind, some boards appreciate the opportunity to establish a base-line set of performance data and watch progress over the years.



Field Services

For more information, contact your Field Services director today.

Springfield – 217/528-9688

Lombard – 630/629-3776

The vision of the Illinois Association of School Boards is excellence in local school board governance supporting quality public education.