

**CHESTER COUNTY  
INTERMEDIATE  
UNIT 24**

SECTION: BOARD PROCEDURES  
TITLE: BOARD GOVERNANCE  
STANDARDS/CODE OF  
CONDUCT

ADOPTED: NOVEMBER 18, 2009

REVISED: MAY 20, 2020

011. BOARD GOVERNANCE STANDARDS/CODE OF CONDUCT

Policy Section	Policy Description
Section 1. Standards for Effective School Governance	<p>To promote student growth and achievement, an effective Board</p> <p>a. Advocates for a thorough and efficient system of public education by:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Promoting public education as a keystone of democracy.</li> <li>2. Engaging and promoting community support by seeking input, building support networks and generating action.</li> <li>3. Allocating resources in a manner designed to facilitate student achievement consistent with Intermediate Unit goals and plans.</li> <li>4. Maintaining legislative awareness and communicating with members of local, state and federal legislative bodies.</li> <li>5. Ensuring strong management of the Intermediate Unit programs by hiring, setting goals with and evaluating the Executive Director.</li> <li>6. Employing qualified staff to meet student and program needs.</li> </ol> <p>b. Models responsible governance and leadership by:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Staying current with changing needs and requirements by reviewing educational literature, attending professional development opportunities prior to Board service and continuously during Board service, and preparing to make informed decisions.</li> <li>2. Interacting with school officials in member school districts and using resources provided by organizations and agencies committed to effective governance and management of Intermediate Unit programs.</li> <li>3. Leading with respect and taking full responsibility for Board activity and</li> </ol>

	<p>behavior.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>4. Adopting and acting in accordance with the <i>PSBA Code of Conduct for Members of Pennsylvania School Boards</i>.</li><li>5. Engaging all community stakeholders.</li><li>6. Complying with Board policy and all applicable local, state and federal laws and regulations.</li><li>7. Operating as a collective Board in making decisions.</li><li>8. Participating in annual Board retreats.</li></ol> <p>c. Governs through policy by:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Seeking input from stakeholders and following an established procedure for consideration.</li><li>2. Regularly reviewing and, as necessary, revising and adopting Board policy.</li><li>3. Delegating to the Executive Director responsibility for implementation of Board policy.</li><li>4. Ensuring public access to adopted Board policy.</li><li>5. Purposefully linking its actions to applicable Board policies.</li></ol> <p>d. Ensures that effective planning occurs by:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Adopting and implementing a collaborative strategic planning process, including regular reviews.</li><li>2. Setting annual goals that are aligned with the Strategic Plan.</li><li>3. Linking Board actions to the Strategic Plan.</li><li>4. Adopting a financial plan that considers short-term and long-term needs.</li><li>5. Adopting professional development plans for Board and staff.</li><li>6. Adopting a plan to ensure evaluation of student growth and achievement using relevant data.</li><li>7. Adopting a master facility plan conducive to teaching and learning.</li><li>8. Adopting a plan for curriculum review and development.</li></ol>
--	--

<p>Section 2. <u>Code of Conduct for Board Members</u></p>	<p>e. Monitors results by:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Using data appropriately to make informed decisions.</li><li>2. Ensuring effective practices for evaluation of staff, programs, plans and services.</li><li>3. Evaluating its own performance.</li><li>4. Assessing student growth and achievement.</li><li>5. Evaluating the effectiveness of the Strategic Plan.</li></ol> <p>f. Communicates with and engages the community by</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Distributing relevant information about the Intermediate Unit.</li><li>2. Providing methods of communication to the Board and appropriate staff.</li><li>3. Seeking input through a variety of methods.</li><li>4. Including stakeholders in all communications.</li></ol> <p>a. We, as members of the Board, representing all the residents of our member school districts, believe that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Striving toward ideal conditions for effective Board service to our community, in a spirit of teamwork and devotion to public education, is the greatest instrument for preserving and perpetuating our representative democracy.</li><li>2. The future welfare of this community, commonwealth and nation depends upon the quality of education we provide in the public schools and intermediate units.</li><li>3. In order to maintain a free and strong country, our civic obligation to the community, commonwealth and nation is to maintain free and strong public schools in the United States of America, without surrendering our responsibilities to any other person, group or organization.</li><li>4. Boards share responsibility for ensuring a “thorough and efficient system of public education” as required by the Pennsylvania Constitution.</li><li>5. Our fellow residents have entrusted us with the advocacy for and stewardship of the education of the youth of the member school district communities.</li></ol>
--	--

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>6. The public expects that our first and greatest priority is to provide equitable educational opportunities for all youth.</li></ol> <p>b. Accordingly:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. The member school districts' communities should be provided with information about the Intermediate Unit and be engaged by the Board and staff to encourage input and support for the Intermediate Unit.</li><li>2. Devoting time, thought and study to our duties and responsibilities as Board members is critical for rendering effective and credible service.</li><li>3. Board members should work together in a spirit of harmony, respect and cooperation, despite differences of opinion.</li><li>4. Personal decisions should be based upon all sufficient facts, we should vote our honest conviction without partisan bias, and we will abide by and uphold the majority decision of the Board.</li><li>5. Individuals have no legal authority outside the meetings of the Board, and should conduct their relationships with all stakeholders and media on this basis.</li><li>6. We will not use our positions as Board members to benefit ourselves or any individual or agency.</li><li>7. Boards must balance their responsibility to provide educational programs with the need to be effective stewards of public resources.</li><li>8. We should recognize that the primary responsibility of the Board is to adopt policies by which the Intermediate Unit is to be administered.</li><li>9. We should respect that the Executive Director and his/her staff are responsible and accountable for the delivery of the educational programs and the conduct of Intermediate Unit operations.</li><li>10. Communication with all stakeholders and the media should be conducted in accordance with Board policy.</li></ol>
--	---