



School District Governance Team Board Self-Evaluation Survey

Overview

One of the primary ways a governance team can strengthen or maintain its effectiveness is to periodically assess its own performance. A governance team self-assessment provides the opportunity to step back and reflect on how well it is meeting its responsibilities. This governance team self-assessment will provide the board and superintendent with valuable perception data, revealing the range of perceptions among board members regarding the performance of the board and the governance team.

Individuals will rank the performance of the board and governance team on important characteristics. CSBA determined these characteristics through collaborative efforts with board members from around the state—who defined the *CSBA Professional Governance Standards* for boards; and through our experiences providing board development to school boards across California for more than 30 years.

Content

The evaluation is divided into two parts. Part one consists of questions regarding the conditions of effective governance. Part two contains questions that address the board's five major responsibilities. For each statement, Individuals should select the descriptor that most accurately describes the extent to which the board demonstrates the quality or characteristic.

How to use your *Board Self-Evaluation Results*



When?

The board should schedule a special open-session conversation/discussion meeting to review the results of this survey.

Guide to the Report

The report provides the board with perception data - how trustees individually perceive the board's effectiveness. The range of scores across topics will help the board identify areas in which board members might achieve greater collective clarity in fulfilling their governance responsibilities. The results are color-coded for ease of interpretation.

Color	Distribution of Ratings	Implications
	All board members rated this item as <i>Almost Always</i> or <i>Often</i>	A strength for all members
	A majority of board member rated these items as <i>Almost Always</i> or <i>Often</i>	A strength for majority of members
	A majority of board member rated these items as <i>Less Often</i> or <i>Rarely</i>	An area of growth for majority of members
	All board members rated this item as <i>Less Often, Rarely, or Not Sure</i>	An area of growth for all members

The board can improve its cohesiveness by discussing the range of responses, learning each member's rationale for his/her ratings. In some cases, the board may find that members have different expectations for what deserves an 'Almost always' vs. an 'often,' but that there is general agreement on how the board is performing.

How to structure the board conversation

As the board discusses these results, remember a few critical points:

- The report displays a range of perceptions, *not facts*.
- Focus your discussion on what matters most.
- Each member should practice empathetic listening and work to understand the views of other board members.
- It's okay to differ in opinion; you don't always need to agree, but *you do need to understand*.

Step 1: Confirm the strengths. (Green)

Step 2: Confirm the areas for growth. (Red)

Step 3: Identify areas where perceptions are mixed. (Blue or Yellow)

Step 4: Focus.

From the results from steps 2 and 3 above, the board should agree on the three to five most important areas for improving board performance. The board should answer the question: *Which areas of improvement will be most beneficial to the board and the district?*

Step 5: Set goals.

Set specific, measurable, time-bound goals with success indicators for improving board performance in each area.

Step 6: Schedule board development workshops throughout the year and add them to your Governance Calendar.

If you would like help: CSBA's *Governance Consulting Services* provides board development coaching and guidance. If you would like to discuss how these services can be tailored to meet your particular needs, please call us at 916-669-3293 or to request a board self-evaluation visit <http://bse.csba.org>.