Board-Superintendent Partnerships

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Why this is important

Working together as a governance team is a critical practice for school boards and superintendents. This partnership is paramount to every relationship in the district.
Session outline

1. National Connection resources
2. Tough conversations
3. Effective relationships
4. Improved student achievement
5. Making expectations clear
6. Communicating effectively
7. Working well together
National Connection

What Does National Connection Mean To You?

Working Together, We Can Create Excellence for Every Student

National Connection, a partnership of state school boards associations and NSBA, provides nationally developed tools and resources for school boards. These resources help keep your school board on the leading edge for public education.

What’s Inside

How to Join

Your district can join at any time throughout the year. New districts receive a one-time discount on the first-year enrollment fee.

Ebola and Enterovirus in Schools

Learn how to combat the risk of infectious diseases in public schools and take the preventative steps needed to make schools safe for children and staff. Download the guide, courtesy of TASB, to create a response plan. Download the guide.
Strengthen your board’s leadership with best practices from across the country.
National Connection Resources

• Federal Insider
• Public Engagement Toolkit
• 20% discount on NSBA Conference
• NC Resource Center
• Perspectives and webinars
• American School Board Journal (ASBJ)
• Weekly e-newsletter
The Paramount Relationship in a school district: *The board-superintendent partnership*
What school boards can do

- Represent the local community and its values for their schools
- Establish and monitor progress on the vision
- Select and effectively evaluate the school’s chief administrator
- Engage local community for improving student learning
- Other…
Correlation with achievement

1. Written goals for the superintendent that focus on specific outcomes for student learning
2. Communicating performance expectations for the superintendent to the community
3. Base decisions about the superintendent’s contract on objective evaluation of his or her performance and achievement of goals

(Ivan Lorentzen, 2013)
Correlation with achievement

4. Collaboration with staff and the community to formulate and maintain a district plan with goals and outcomes

5. Basing ongoing work, such as policy development, decision-making, and budgeting, on district goals

6. Continually monitoring progress toward the goals and outcomes of the district plan

(Ivan Lorentzen, 2013)
Eight characteristics of effective school boards

1. High expectations
2. Strong shared beliefs
3. Accountability driven
4. Collaborative relationships
5. Data savvy
6. Alignment of resources
7. United team leadership
8. Team development and training

(Center for Public Education)
Student achievement

- Tough Conversation
- Effective Relationships
- Making expectations clear
- Communicating effectively
- Working Together

National Connection, 2014
Tough conversations

• Why am I on this board/team?
• What do I expect of my board and superintendent?
• What information do I need and how?
• Am I a representative or a delegate?
• What do I want to accomplish?
• What really irritates me?
Effective relationships

- Require honest communication
- Clarify expectations
- Take a lot of work and time
- Need to have a shared purpose
- Will have challenges
Improved student achievement

- Superintendents matter
- Boards make a difference
- The board-superintendent relationship sets the course for everything in the district
- Comes through a vision with clear goals
- Requires a focused course of action over time
Clear expectations

- The most important conversation your team needs to have
- Expectations change over time
- Have the conversation again
- Ask about hopes and fears
- Check to ensure expectations are met
- Find out when expectations are met
Effective Communication

- Starts with listening
- Requires caring
- Focuses on a purpose/mission
- Includes dialog
- Is ongoing

11/12/14
National Connection, 2014
Working together

- There is no I in TEAM
- No one can improve student learning alone
- Board members have to count to 3 or 4
- If you don’t pull together, you will pull apart
- Strategic and tactical alignment with operations
Creating conditions for success

- Connections across the system
- Knowing what it takes to change achievement
- Workplace support
- Professional development
- Balance of district direction and building autonomy
- Strong community connection
- Distributed leadership

(Iowa Lighthouse Study)
Further study


Make a difference

www.nsba.org/getconnected