The Key Work of School Boards

CLIMATE

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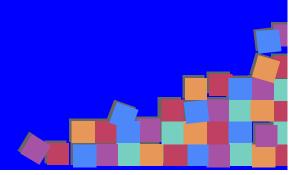




The overall climate of a school and the specific learning environment of an individual classroom have enormous influence on student achievement.

Ensure a Safe Environment for Work and Learning

The School Board must ensure a safe and orderly learning environment in all schools.





Examine the Available Data that Reflect Climate

The School Board:

- Ensures periodic assessment of school climate throughout the district using
 - attendance data
 - discipline data enrollment in higher-level classes
 - staff turnover
 - student enrollment trends



- Collects, compiles, and analyzes data related to school climate
- Reports periodically to the board on the results of school climate assessments and data trends and recommends changes

Examine the Capacity to Provide Special Programs

The School Board:

 Approves and monitors programs designed to meet special instructional needs of students who are not meeting achievement goals or standards.



- Recommends instructional programs or approaches for special instructional needs based on data and best practices.
- Institutes a process for evaluating these programs and recommends needed changes to the board.

Survey Parents and Students to Determine Satisfaction Levels



 Surveys the students, staff, and parents to assess school climate.

The Superintendent:

 Identifies and implements surveys or other means of assessing the school climate for high student achievement

Build a Positive Culture Within the Organization

The School Board and Superintendent:

- Models respect, professional behavior, and a commitment to continuous learning
 - with board members
 - with staff
 - with parents and students
 - with the community

The School Board:

 Provides orientation for board candidates and new board members on expectations for student achievement.

The Superintendent:

 provides staff development for board candidates and board members.

Communicate with the Media

The School Board:

 Builds public support for higher student achievement by increasing public trust through formal and informal communications.

The Superintendent:

- Implements a communication plan to ensure accurate information, channels for community involvement and input.
- Ensures openness by district staff in relations to all stakeholders.

Make Schools Inviting Places To Be

The role of climate empowers employees to share the district's vision and to bring commitment and creativity to the job.

Climate welcomes accountability and sustains changes for constant improvement.