

Fayette County Public Schools  
SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER NORMS

The Governance Team Agrees To:

1. Always put students first when making decisions and keep student achievement as the main focus, spending less time on operational issues and more time focused on policies.
2. Board members should request from the Superintendent information concerning district events, system progress reports on goals and objectives, and other information relevant to the oversight responsibilities of the board.
3. Use appropriate protocol in using social media
  - Use social media as a tool to promote positive and important news about the school district
  - Board members will be positive and mindful of how their actions on social media reflect on the whole board
  - Board members will stay away from responding during a crisis and rely on the district social media sites to relay critical information
  - Board members should treat each other with mutual respect and not denigrate one another on social media
  - Respect organizational structure for sharing official information on social media
4. Lead as a united team with the superintendent, each from their respective roles, with strong collaboration and mutual trust.
5. Take part in team development and training, sometimes with the superintendent, to build shared knowledge, values, and commitments for the improvement of each member and the board as a whole.
6. Realize that you are a single member of a governing body. As such, it is never appropriate to act or speak on behalf of the board without the board's permission. Remember as a single board member, you have no authority.
7. Respect which applies to engaging with other board members applies double for community members.
8. At all board meetings, adhere to the topics of the agenda. Board discussion is for the business purpose of seeking clarity, furthering understanding and being prepared to take action.
9. Come prepared for each meeting.
10. Contact the Superintendent with agenda questions prior to the meeting (Monday at 10:00 a.m. at the latest). This will allow staff the time necessary to research the information. Additional questions may still be presented during the Board meeting as necessary.
11. Treat all persons in a courteous, dignified, and fair manner. Maintain a respectful atmosphere throughout the entire meeting.
12. Establish priorities and keep district resources focused on student safety and learning.
13. Board members should be the chief advocate for public education in their community.
14. Let other Board members and the Superintendent know where you stand on issues. It will make it easier to build consensus and address any problems.
15. If any other local school or district staff is contacted by a Board Member, he or she will refer the Board Member to the appropriate Cabinet member or Superintendent.

16. Board Members should respond to all constituent requests indicating that the concern has been forwarded to the Superintendent
17. Board Members will not give directives to principals, teachers, Cabinet, or staff; nor will Board Members encourage any staff to operate outside of the organizational structure.
18. In the event a Board Member wishes to visit a school, the Board Members will prearrange a visit with the principal and notify the Superintendent unless invited directly by the school administration or district. Board Members should not visit a school unannounced, unless it is a community related event (i.e., holiday concert student performance, athletic game, open house, etc.). Board members do not interfere with day-to-day operations. Board members do not observe teachers.
19. Complete an annual governance team self-assessment aligned with the required eight domains
  
20. Be aware of and familiar with demographic, social, and political trends at the local and state level as they related to school business.
21. Be self-reflective as a board with respect to board performance