

AVERAGE COMPOSITION OF AN INDEPENDENT SCHOOL BOARD



Taken from the NAIS report *State of Independent School Governance*, 2007

GOVERNANCE

WHAT IS THE RIGHT MIX FOR YOUR BOARD?

NAIS

➔ **NAIS** STRATEGIC QUESTIONS SERIES

1

Are the demographics of your board an optimal mix? In terms of age, does your board represent the past, the present, and the future? Is your racial, ethnic, and gender make-up representative of your community? Find resources on this topic in the online NAIS Trustees' Guide at www.nais.org/go/trustees.

2

How will you identify future board members? Evaluate board needs and prospective board members' skills and attributes strategically. Find resources on this topic in the online NAIS Trustees' Guide at www.nais.org/go/trustees.

3

Is your committee structure enabling the board to get its work done quickly and efficiently? Do you have written statements on the role for each committee? Are there start/end dates? Read *Doing More with Less: How Committees and Task Forces Can Strengthen Your Board*, available at www.nais.org/go/bookstore.

4

Do you have defined and transparent expectations for giving? You'll find resources on this topic at www.nais.org/go/strategicquestions_governance. In addition, *Holding the Trust: An Independent School Trustee's Guide to Fiduciary Responsibilities* is available for sale at www.nais.org/go/bookstore.

5

Are you on the same page? Use the NAIS Survey Center to conduct a board self-assessment each year to evaluate expectations and performance (www.nais.org/go/surveycenter). The NAIS Leadership through Partnership workshop helps strengthen the board-head relationship (www.nais.org/go/ltp).

6

Are you weaving good practice into your work? Find the NAIS Principles of Good Practice (PGPs) at www.nais.org/go/pgp. In addition, *The NAIS Trustee Handbook*, which explains many of these principles, is available for sale in the NAIS bookstore at www.nais.org/go/bookstore.

7

Are you in legal compliance? NAIS legal advisories can help your school stay in legal compliance in several areas, including board bylaws, employment procedures, and technology use. They are free for NAIS members at www.nais.org/go/legaladvisories.

8

What do the numbers say? The Trustee Dashboard, free for NAIS members, offers a consolidated set of key indicators of a school's well-being. Use this snapshot to help you understand the current picture of your school's health. Find this resource at www.nais.org/go/trustees.

Do your board's composition and practices allow it to most effectively lead your school?

Explore these eight questions with your board members and school leadership. ➔➔



Find all these links in one place. Use your mobile device to scan this code with a QR code reader app.

➔➔ www.nais.org/go/strategicquestions_governance



National Association
of Independent Schools

GOVERNANCE

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