



How Boards Can Be Useful in the First Month of School

Sample Interactive Guide for School Board Members

Section 1: Leadership Support Guide for Board Members: Building A Healthy Relationship

Board members are strategic partners in district success. Your role is to create conditions for the superintendent and leadership team to excel - not to manage their work.

Reflection Prompt: List three concrete actions you'll take this month to build relationships and trust with the superintendent:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Quick-Check Governance List:

- ☐ I understand the board's governance role.
- ☐ I have regular check-ins with the superintendent.
- ☐ I avoid operational direction in conversations.
- ☐ I know the board policies that support me in supporting leadership

Section 2: Understanding Your Role: Keep Healthy Boundaries

Guiding Principles:

- Govern, Don't Manage (You hired the Superintendent to manage)
- Trust the Experts (The Superintendent and leaders)
- Respect and Encourage

Scenario Activity:

A parent approaches you with a complaint or concern.. How do you respond while respecting governance boundaries?

Role Match-Up: Who is responsible? Place (S) for Superintendent and (B) for Boardmember.

Approves curriculum: _____

Evaluates superintendent: _____

Oversees district budget: _____

Section 3: Supporting the Superintendent (Your One Employee)

Support Strategies:

- Clarify Expectations
- Acknowledge Progress
- Be a Thought Partner
- Avoid Micromanaging

Section 4: Empowering School Leaders

Best Practices:

- Advocate for resources
- Coordinate visits
- Promote leadership growth
- Recognize achievements

Reflection Prompt:

What resources will you advocate for to strengthen school leadership this year?

Section 5: Be An Asset Not A Hindrance

Habits for Healthy Collaboration:

- Stay in your strategic lane
- Ask, don't direct
- Monitor via reports and data, not your feelings or beliefs
- Keep communication transparent and don't triangulate.

Scenario:

A board member bypasses the superintendent to direct a school leader. List two possible consequences and a prevention strategy:

1. Consequence: _____

Prevention: _____

2. Consequence: _____

Prevention: _____

Closing Message

Your role is vital to creating a district where leadership thrives and students succeed. The first month sets the tone. Lead with trust, clear boundaries, and a shared commitment to excellence. This worksheet is just a taste of the training we give at Novus Mundus 360 LLC.

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