



NMSBA School Board Self-Evaluation Training Module

A Key Work of School Boards Initiative

Sponsored by the New Mexico School Boards Association

Background

New Mexico school boards provide both stewardship and leadership for their districts. Even though as elected public officials board members are “evaluated” by the voters every four years, that is not enough to build a quality school board. When board members measure their performance as a school board against research based best practices, the gaps can form the basis for realistic goals for Board improvement and for moving from good to great.

The NMSBA offers a one-hour training module for interested school boards to help member boards clearly understand the major issues related to conducting a board self-evaluation and to help them make their own decisions about the scope and focus of the process. The training module is predicated on the following assumptions:

- An effective evaluation process is based on good board policy.
- The entire purpose of board self-evaluation is constructive and focused on growth.
- School boards should seek to continuously improve their performance.
- Measuring current performance against research based best practices can identify gaps where improvements are possible.
- The board should be responsible for determining standards against which they will evaluate themselves.
- The board should be responsible for determining the sources of self-evaluation feedback.
- Once the board has analyzed both its strengths and areas for growth, the board can make plans for board improvement.
- Board goals, once adopted, can keep the process of board self-evaluation out front and on the table over the course of the year.

The NMSBA Board Self-Evaluation Training Module

The training module is offered to NMSBA members at no cost and provides an interactive review of the follow components of school board self-evaluation processes. The module which is delivered live via Skype or GoToMeeting introduces the board to the key components of an effective self-evaluation process. These elements include:

- How the board can develop a good policy on board self-evaluation.
- How the board can become aware of research based best practices.
- How the board identifies the key constituencies which will provide them feedback.
- How the board identifies the criteria against which they will assess the performance.
- How the board can generate the data they will use to develop goals for Board improvement.
- How the board can utilize the goal they develop as a basis for continuing to improve the quality of their performance.

Scheduling the Training Module

The NMSBA Board Self-Evaluation Module may be requested by calling or emailing Dr. Hugh Prather (505) 321-1467 or hugh.h.prather@gmail.com. He will schedule a mutually convenient time to deliver the module and work with your district's technical staff to test the Skype or GoToMeeting setup well in advance of the session.

Additional Support

The training module is made available on a no cost basis to all NMSBA member districts. If additional technical support for the board self-evaluation process is needed, this support can be individually negotiated through the NMSBA Executive Director, Mr. Joe Guillen. He has a range of support resources available to assist districts in the board self-evaluation process.