



# Acquainting Yourself with Board Policy

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# Importance of Board Policy



- Provides direction and consistency
- Reduces risk and ensures compliance
- Promotes good governance

## Best Way to Acquaint Yourself



- Request a copy of board policy manual
- Start with the table of contents
- If new to board, focus on key areas (i.e. financial oversight, board operations, program, etc.)
- Look for summaries and/or “cheat sheets” for key policies
- Understand “best practice” and “legally required” policy selection(s)



# Effective Board Policy Practices



- Be sure policies are clear and concise
- Ensure regular review and updating
- Become more familiar with policy language through communication and/or training programs

# Executing Policy Direction



- Consult policy when decision-making is or seems unclear
- Ensure access to policy language during board meetings
- Ensure school leadership is executing on policy(ies) through clear operational guidelines
- Be aware of policy service provider and reach out with questions, accordingly

# Potential Pitfalls Alert



ALERT  
**DANGEROUS!**

- Unclear or non-specific language
- Outdated policies
- Inconsistent language with legal requirements
- Not reviewed or updated regularly
- Lack of enforcement
- Lack of communication/training

# Conclusion Quote .

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*“Rules, regulations (and policy) do not make a person correct – they only make them consistent.”*

*Calvin Coolidge*



**THANK YOU!**



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