



PUTTING KIDS FIRST

Student achievement data should drive decision-making from the boardroom to the classroom. According to the Center for Public Education, in their report 'Eight Characteristics of Effective School Boards' (Dervarics & O'Brien, 2019):

- Effective school boards commit to a vision of high expectations for student achievement and quality instruction, defining clear goals toward that vision.
- They hold strong shared beliefs and values regarding students' potential to learn and the system's capacity to teach all children at high levels.
- Accountability-driven, effective school boards spend less time on operational issues and more time on policies aimed at improving student achievement.

Together, school boards and leaders should establish measurable goals, collect relevant data, and frequently monitor progress to ensure the school meets academic performance standards outlined in the charter application, adjusting strategies if necessary.

Your charter is a contract to increase student achievement!

As per SECTION 59-40-20, the purpose of charter schools is to: (1) improve student learning; (2) increase learning opportunities for students; (3) promote the use of various effective teaching methods; (4) introduce new forms of school accountability; (5) provide new professional prospects for teachers, including leadership opportunities within the school; (6) aid South Carolina in achieving academic excellence; and (7) develop innovative and flexible approaches to educating children within the public school system, with the aim of narrowing achievement gaps between low-performing and high-performing student groups.



WHAT STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT DATA CAN AND SHOULD THE BOARD MONITOR?

- National assessment data (ACT, SAT, AP, IB, etc.)
- State assessment data (EOCEP, SC Ready, SC Pass, SC Career Readiness, etc.)
- Graduation rates
- Postsecondary engagement
- Drop out rates
- College and career readiness indicators, such as Advanced Placement (AP) course participation, dual enrollment, and career and technical education (CTE) program completion
- School-level benchmark growth and proficiency levels
- School Report Card Data
- Your school's unique charter goals

What additional data should the board monitor?

- Enrollment data
- Student attendance
- Student, parent and staff satisfaction surveys
- Discipline data
- Teacher certification rates
- State climate surveys
- Financial data can help school boards ensure that resources are allocated effectively to support student achievement initiatives.



Midlands Middle College Board



A BOARD THAT PUTS STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT FIRST

- Understands the charter’s academic goals and objectives related to student achievement, and has systems in place to monitor student achievement, including key commitments made in charter
- Creates a definition and sets an expectation of academic excellence
- Establishes board approved academic achievement goals that are SMART (specific, measurable, attainable, results focused and timely)
- Produces board minutes that indicate discussion of the school’s bar for academic excellence and current performance toward it
- Includes academic performance dashboards/data in board meeting packets
- Establishes an academic excellence (or comparable) subcommittee
- Monitors standardized and interim test results and reports
- Compares reports to state, local schools, other charter schools, and/or internal benchmarks
- Engages with the school leader through regular reporting to analyze and discuss academic achievement progress
- Participates in board trainings, retreats and other development opportunities that increase capacity in academic oversight
- Implements school improvement plans, professional development plans, and strategic plans specifically focused on raising achievement based on current student achievement data
- Celebrates student success

“Every challenge a school board faces can be addressed through becoming intensely focused on improving student outcomes.”

~ AJ Crabill , *Great on Their Behalf : Why School Boards Fail, How Yours Can Become Effective*



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