

Strategic Engagement with School Board Members

*Safeguarding and Advancing Charter and
Private Schools*

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Introduction and Purpose of Engagement

Defining the Audience-

Who Benefits From Strategic Engagement

Charter and Private Schools

Independent schools gain expanded influence and a stronger voice through strategic engagement with the School District.

Community Engagement

Strategic engagement facilitates community engagement.



Objectives of Proactive School Board Engagement



Building Relationships (*Before You Need Something!*)

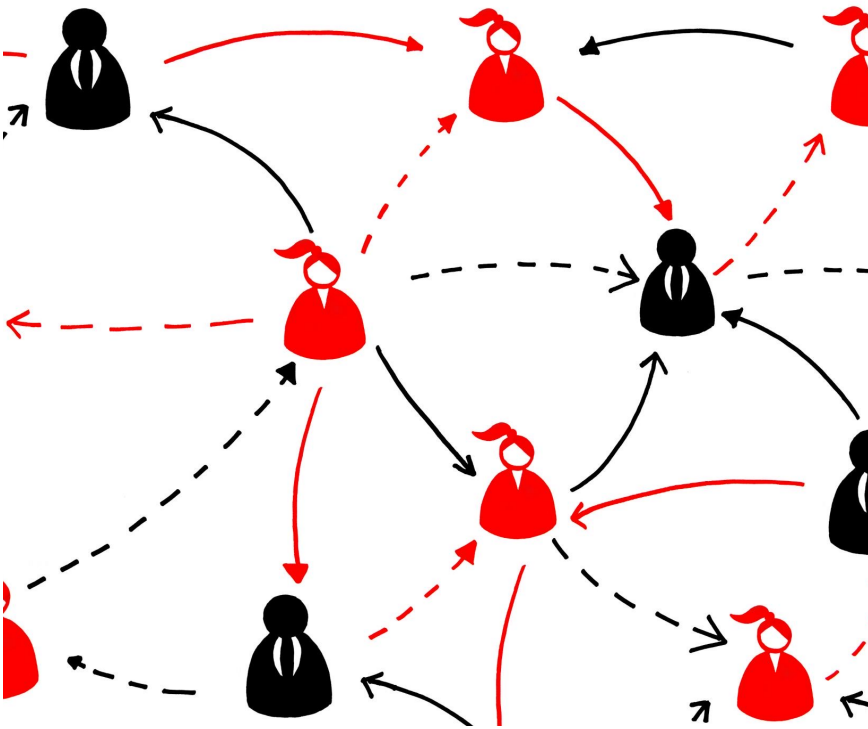
Establish strong connections with board members to foster trust and collaboration on future projects.

Spread the Word

Enhance understanding of school missions and challenges among board members.

Influencing Policies

Advocate for positive policies that support school improvement and student success.



Risk: Limited Engagement

Misunderstandings

Limited engagement causes misunderstandings that undermine effective communication between stakeholders.

Missed Advocacy

Lack of active involvement results in missed chances to influence important educational policies.

Vulnerability to Policies

Limited engagement leaves schools exposed to unfavorable policies.

Understanding School Board Influence on Charter and Private Schools

Make or Break-

Role of School Boards in Charter Authorization and Renewal

Authority over Charter Contracts

School boards have the power to approve or renew contracts.

Negotiation

Having a good relationship with the School Board may help with negotiating the terms of a charter contract or renewal contract.





Impact of District Policies on Private Schools

Resource Allocation Impact

Private schools may experience effects from district resource allocation and support programs.

Collaboration Opportunities

Collaborative initiatives foster partnerships between public districts and private schools.

Bridge the Gap

Limited Understanding of School Operations

Board members often have limited knowledge about how charter and private schools operate.

Information Sharing

Providing information and real life stories can help board members better grasp the reality of independent schools.

Relationship Building

Building relationships will help with advocacy when needed.



The Consequences of Remaining Invisible to School Boards



Don't Be a Ghost!

Decision-Making without Your School's Advocacy

Lack of School Representation

Absence of schools in board discussions leads to decisions made without their needs or interests considered.

Impact on Policy Decisions

Policies may neglect or harm charter and private schools when their interests are overlooked.



Tell Your Own Story

Indirect Influence on Board Members

District staff can shape board members' perceptions through secondhand information.

Potential Misrepresentation Issues

Outside influence may lead to narratives that inaccurately reflect charter and private schools' realities. Tell your version of the story.



Risky Business

Being Misunderstood or Overlooked in Key Board Votes

Visibility Gaps

Lack of clear representation can cause key school needs to be misunderstood or forgotten during board votes.

Impact on Funding

Misunderstanding during votes may lead to reduced or misallocated funding.

Policy and Operations

Ignored perspectives can negatively affect policy decisions and school operations.

Operational and Strategic Risks of Limited Engagement

Potential Lack of Notice for Material School-Impacting Changes

Delayed Awareness of Changes

Schools lacking engagement often receive late or no notice of critical policy, procedural updates or adverse actions against a school.

Reduced Response Capability

Delayed information limits schools' ability to respond promptly and safeguard their interests.



Questions?

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