

# The Role of Boards

School boards are elected to govern K-12 education in their school divisions and are essential members of local government. They ensure that the wishes of the community are reflected in the division's schools and make decisions that shape education.

The longest-lasting and most fundamental responsibility of school boards has been to bring the voice of the public to publicly funded education. Boards involve their communities by informing,

listening, and considering the communities' values when making decisions.

In Saskatchewan, there are different kinds of school divisions: large geographic divisions that combine an urban centre and expansive rural areas; large urban public divisions; the Conseil Scolaire Fransaskois; northern school divisions; and, Roman Catholic separate school divisions. Every division is governed by a locally elected board of education.



## Strategy

## STRATEGY – RISK – RESOURCES – PEOPLE

The main things boards are responsible for are strategy, risk, resources, and people. This includes setting the strategic direction (strategic planning), and gaining reasonable confidence regarding performance monitoring, risk oversight, financial performance and integrity, and stakeholder engagement.



## Risk

### Boards have many important responsibilities, including:

Establishing the vision, priorities and overall educational plans for the school division by:

- Approving the educational program for the school division.
- Overseeing and holding the division accountable for results.
- Determining financial priorities, adopting the annual budget and ensuring accountability for school division expenditures.

### Establishing the strategic policies of the school division by:

- Maintaining school facilities as healthy and safe places to learn.
- Working with the school division administration and in consultation with parents, caregivers, students, teachers and support staff.
- Supporting positive environments for students and staff.
- Communicating effectively by informing and listening to their communities.
- Advocating for education, ensuring that the educational needs of students are always considered first.



## Resources



## People

Please visit [saskschoolboards.ca](http://saskschoolboards.ca) for more information and to access the **SSBA Governance Handbook**.