

# GOOD to GOVERN: Charter School Founding Board Diagnostic Tool

## STANDARD

<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">PREPARATION</p>	<p>The board has a clear action plan that delineates the key decisions they need to make by the time the doors open.</p> <p>All board members fully understand the critical components of the charter/key charter promises.</p> <p>The full board is equipped to execute their fiduciary responsibility. The full board understands the annual budget and is knowledgeable about the short and long-term financial outlook of the school.</p> <p>The board has a comprehensive plan to conduct oversight of the academic program.</p>
<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">CAPACITY/COMPOSITION</p>	<p>There is a target profile of expertise and perspective needed on the board which sets current and future recruitment priorities. There is a clear board expansion plan and timeline.</p> <p>There is strong expertise in key fields such as finance, legal, real estate, fundraising and education — but not too narrow a focus, and bench strength in key areas (especially finance).</p> <p>Some board members have previous governance experience.</p> <p>There are no real or perceived conflicts of interest among board members.</p> <p>Board has strong diversity relevant to community &amp; school population.</p>
<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">STRUCTURE</p>	<p>The board is of adequate size to support effective governance.</p> <p>The bylaws are comprehensive, include reasonable term limits, and the full board understands them and their implications.</p> <p>The board has identified officers — chair, vice-chair, treasurer and secretary. There are written job descriptions for these positions and they are clear about their roles and responsibilities.</p> <p>The bylaws delineate a reasonable number of committees and there are detailed job descriptions for these committees.</p>
<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">CLARITY</p>	<p>There is a written job description for the board of trustees, performance expectations for individual trustees and all board members have pledged to uphold these standards.</p> <p>If the board is using a CMO or ESP, the full board understands their contractual arrangements and there has been sufficient dialogue and documentation about who gets to decide on key issues.</p> <p>The board actively discusses which elements of key decisions are governance vs. management.</p> <p>The school leader demonstrates a strong understanding of their role vis-à-vis effective governance.</p> <p>The full board understands their relationship in developing, supporting and evaluating the School Leader.</p> <p>There is a strong working relationship between School Leader, the Board Chair and the full board.</p> <p>Clarity about parent role on the board, if applicable.</p>