

Leadership Katy ISD

School District Governance: The Role of the Board of Trustees

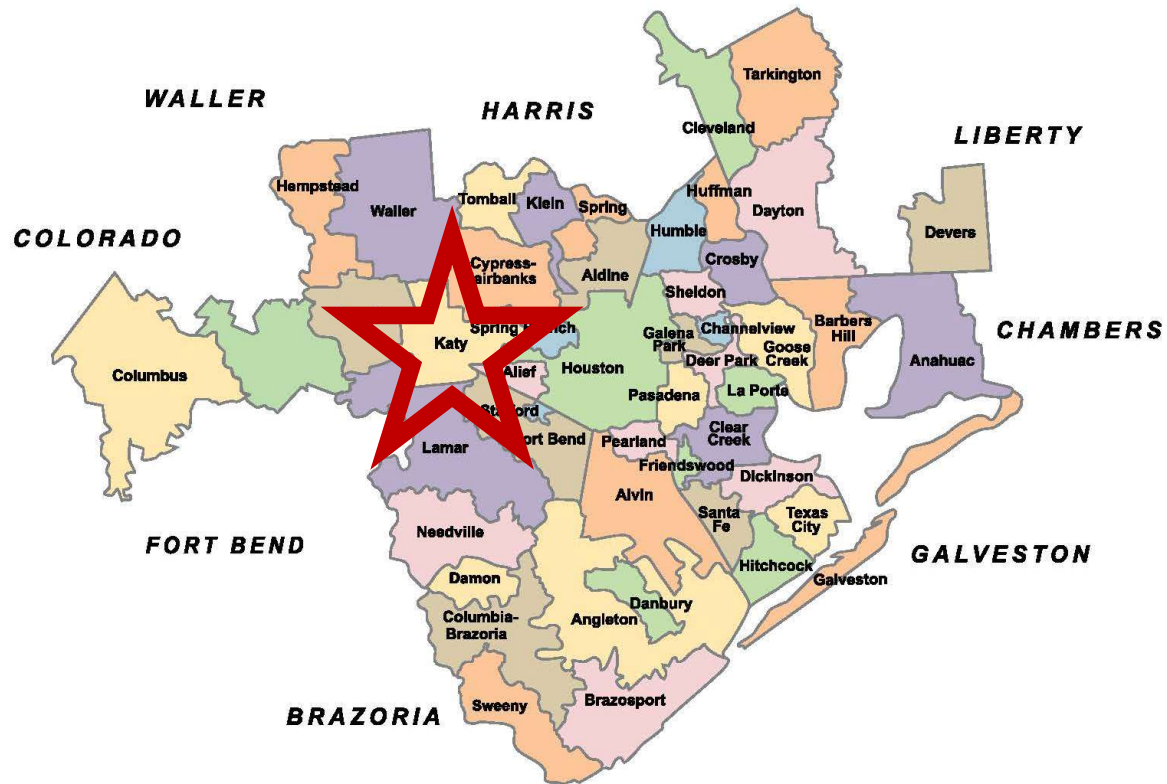
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Region 4 Education Service Center



Region 4 ESC

- Largest of the 20 Texas ESCs
- Service, non-regulatory
- Quasi-governmental (non-taxing)
- Eight Counties
- 48 Traditional School Districts
- 41 Charter School Districts
- Over 1,500 Campuses
- More than 1.2 million students
- More than 165,000 educators

The Legal Basis

*The trustees as a body corporate have the exclusive power and duty to **govern** and **oversee** the **management** of the public schools of the district.*

TEC 11.151

School Board

Superintendent



Responsibilities of a School Board

Trustees have authority only as a part of the corporate Board in a duly posted Board meeting:

- Adopt goals and priorities and monitor success. *Oversight*
- Adopt policies and review for effectiveness. *Governance*
- Hire and evaluation the superintendent. *Oversight*
- Approve an annual budget and set the tax rate.
Governance
- Communicate with the community. *Governance and Oversight*

Source: <https://www.tasb.org/members/enhance-district/texas-school-board-roles-and-responsibilities/>

What do these roles look like in action?

- Give an example you've seen or read about that might describe the governance or oversight role of the board
- Give an example you've seen or read about that might describe the management role of the superintendent



Responsibility Comparison

Board

- Governs
- Oversees
- Guides
- Represents public interests
- Decides what

Superintendent

- Manages
- Implements
- Operates
- Acts in the public interest
- Decides how



Roles and Responsibilities - Scenario

Closing school due to inclement weather

- A. Governance or Oversight – Board
- B. Management – Superintendent

Roles and Responsibilities - Scenario

Adopt the district policy on graduation requirements.

- A. Governance or Oversight – Board
- B. Management – Superintendent

Roles and Responsibilities - Scenario

Adopt district goals for student achievement

- A. Governance or Oversight – Board
- B. Management – Superintendent

Roles and Responsibilities - Scenario

Allocate resources and implement plans to make progress towards district goals

- A. Governance or Oversight – Board
- B. Management – Superintendent

Roles and Responsibilities - Scenario

Determine qualifications to be posted when hiring a new third grade teacher

- A. Governance or Oversight – Board
- B. Management – Superintendent

Roles and Responsibilities - Scenario

Determine qualifications to be posted when hiring a new athletic director or head football coach

- A. Governance or Oversight – Board
- B. Management – Superintendent

Requirements for Candidates

- United States Citizen
- 18 years or older on first day of term or appointment
- Not been determined by a court to be mentally or partially mentally incapacitated
- Not convicted of a felony, unless pardoned
- Resident of the state for 12 months and in the “territory” from which office is elected for 6 months preceding filing
- Registered to vote in the “territory” from which office is elected
- Not have been convicted of a felony or solicitation of prostitution even if pardoned

Source: Tex. Elec. Code 141.001



Ethical Campaigning

Once you have made a decision to run for the school board, follow these general practices to ensure you conduct your campaign ethically:

- Focus attention on issues and avoid attacking or finding fault in individuals—either opponents or district employees.
- Prepare for campaigning by becoming familiar with the issues in your district.
- Be sure facts used in your campaign are accurate.
- Keep your focus on what you would like to see happen in your district.
- Avoid making promises that you as an individual cannot keep without board support.

Source: www.tasb.org/services/board-development-services/resources/for-board-candidates/ethical-campaigning.aspx