

Five Commitments of Board Leadership

1. **CHALLENGE THE PROCESS**
Improving the quality of school for children and families in your community may mean making changes. Change involves taking risks and finding new ways of doing things. As board members, you may need to challenge old thinking and be innovative in making school a better place.
2. **INSPIRE THE SHARED VISION**
The first step to building a better school community is finding common goals so that boards can work more effectively and efficiently.
3. **ENABLE OTHERS TO ACT**
School leaders build trust among members to foster cooperation. They work within systems in which power is shared to encourage responsibility, creating a supportive environment for the school families.
4. **MODEL THE WAY**
Visions are abstract, but actions are tangible. Leaders are role models that move others to new ways of doing things by setting an example. They tell stories, take opportunities to teach, and recognize progress as ways of maintaining the momentum of the school.
5. **ENCOURAGE THE HEART**
Change requires hard work and persistence. Many participants are volunteers whose only reward is recognition. Leaders make sure that the contributions of individuals involved in school projects are recognized both publicly and privately.

Source: Kouzes, J. & Posner, B. (1995)
The Leadership Challenge: How to keep getting extraordinary things done in organizations. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass