

# Welcome to School Board Service and the VSBA



**April 2020**

# Agenda!

**The Role of the School Board**

**Essential Work of Vermont School Boards**

**Education Governance in Vermont**

**The VSBA**

# The Role of the School Board

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**The school board acts as trustees on behalf of the community to provide strong oversight of public education.**



# The Role of a District School Board

The school board acts as trustees on behalf of the community to provide oversight of public education, assuring:

High quality education for every student in the district

The public gets good return on its investment

The system operates efficiently, effectively and ethically

[www.VTVSBA.org](http://www.VTVSBA.org)

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# VERMONT



# NT

## SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION

es **Home** Events Services Advocacy Tool Kits Resources

# Essential Work of Vermont School Boards Workbook

- Published by VSBA
- Last updated Spring 2019
- Order at [vtvsba.org](http://vtvsba.org) from the New Member Tool Kit.

## Essential Work of Vermont School Boards



A resource from the  
**VERMONT  
SCHOOL  
BOARDS  
ASSOCIATION**  
A non-profit organization serving Vermont's public schools and school boards since 1964. 1000 North Main Street, Suite 200, Montpelier, VT 05602

# Essential Work of School Boards: Vision



Engage the Community  
& Establish a Vision



Adopt Policy



Board & Superintendent  
Partnership



Develop a Budget &  
Assure Financial Oversight



Monitor Progress



Effective & Ethical  
Operations



# Essential Work of School Boards: Vision

## Engaged with Community

- Structured and ongoing dialogue

## Clear Educational Vision

- Developed with community input
- Board monitors progress
- Board makes policy and budget decisions to support vision

## Whole Board Unity



# Essential Work of School Boards: Policy



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& Establish a Vision



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# Essential Work of School Boards: Policy

## Articulate values and concerns

- Educational Results
- Legal requirements
- Community Expectations

## Delegate

- Administration interprets policy
- Written procedures

## Monitor



# Essential Work of School Boards: Superintendent

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# Essential Work of School Boards: Superintendent

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## Chief Executive Officer

- Accountable for operations

## Mutual Accountability

- Board must provide clear direction and set priorities
- Superintendent must deliver on board's priorities



# Roles: Board, Superintendent, Principal

## Board


- Sets clear goals
- Assures good communication between board and administration
- Establishes and monitors clear system for accountability

## Superintendent

- Chief Executive Officer
  - Operations
  - Educational Leadership
- Accountable to Supervisory Union and District Boards

## Principal

- Instructional Leadership & day-to-day school operations
- Relies on Supervisory Union action plan, priorities, and initiatives
- Accountable to Superintendent



**Boards  
assure  
schools are  
well run -  
they do not  
run them**

# Chain of Command: Board, Superintendent, Principal

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**Board: Vision, Policy, Resources, Accountability**



**Superintendent: Systems Leader and CEO for the district, accountable to SU and District boards**



**Principal: Educational Leader for school, accountable to the superintendent**

# Essential Work of School Boards: Budget



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# Essential Work of School Boards: Budget

Assure adequate resources to advance vision

High level oversight

- Assure prudent management on behalf of taxpayers



# Essential Work of School Boards: Monitoring



Engage the Community  
& Establish a Vision



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Effective & Ethical  
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# Essential Work of School Boards: Monitoring

Board is accountable for

- Progress on student outcomes
- Compliance to all policies
- Clearly stated objectives and expectations

Administration is accountable for

- Evidence of progressing toward vision

# Essential Work of School Boards: Operations



Engage the Community  
& Establish a Vision



Adopt Policy



Board & Superintendent  
Partnership



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Assure Financial Oversight



Monitor Progress



Effective & Ethical  
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# Essential Work of School Boards: Operations

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Well-organized Meetings

Engaged and Informed Board  
Members



# Handling Complaints

Receive complaint

Follow district complaint policy and procedures

Inform chair and administrator

Follow up later with complainant, if appropriate

Board final level of complaint appeal - not first



# Recommendations for New School Board Members

## Your Work

- High quality education for every student
- Good return on investment for every tax payer
- Your job is **NOT** to “run the school(s)”!

## Enthusiasm

- Bring passion and commitment
- Keep the big picture in mind
- Follow good governance practices and policies

## Ethics

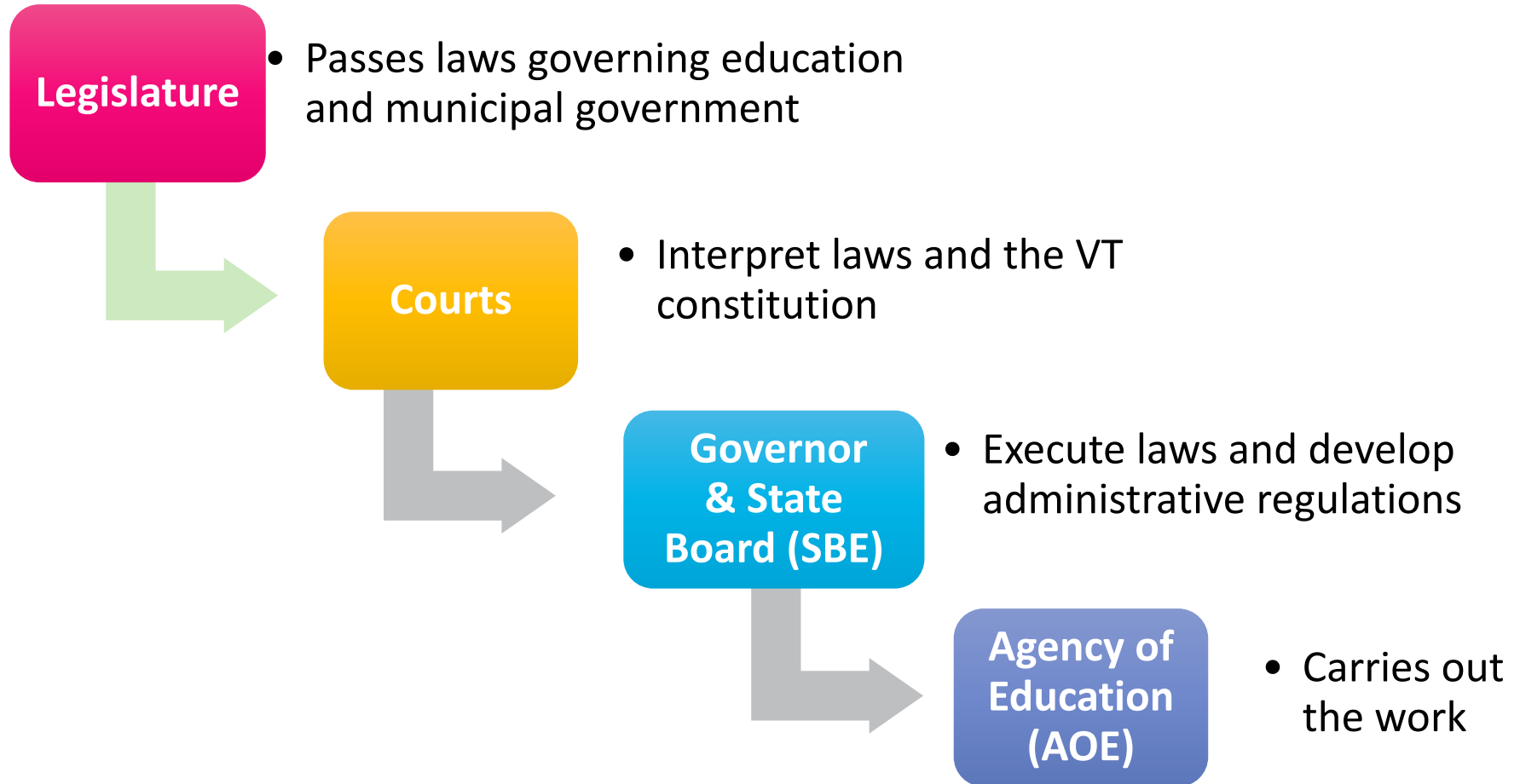
- Follow the law
- Uphold highest ethical standards
- Avoid conflicts of interest - real and perceived

## Role of Individual Board Member

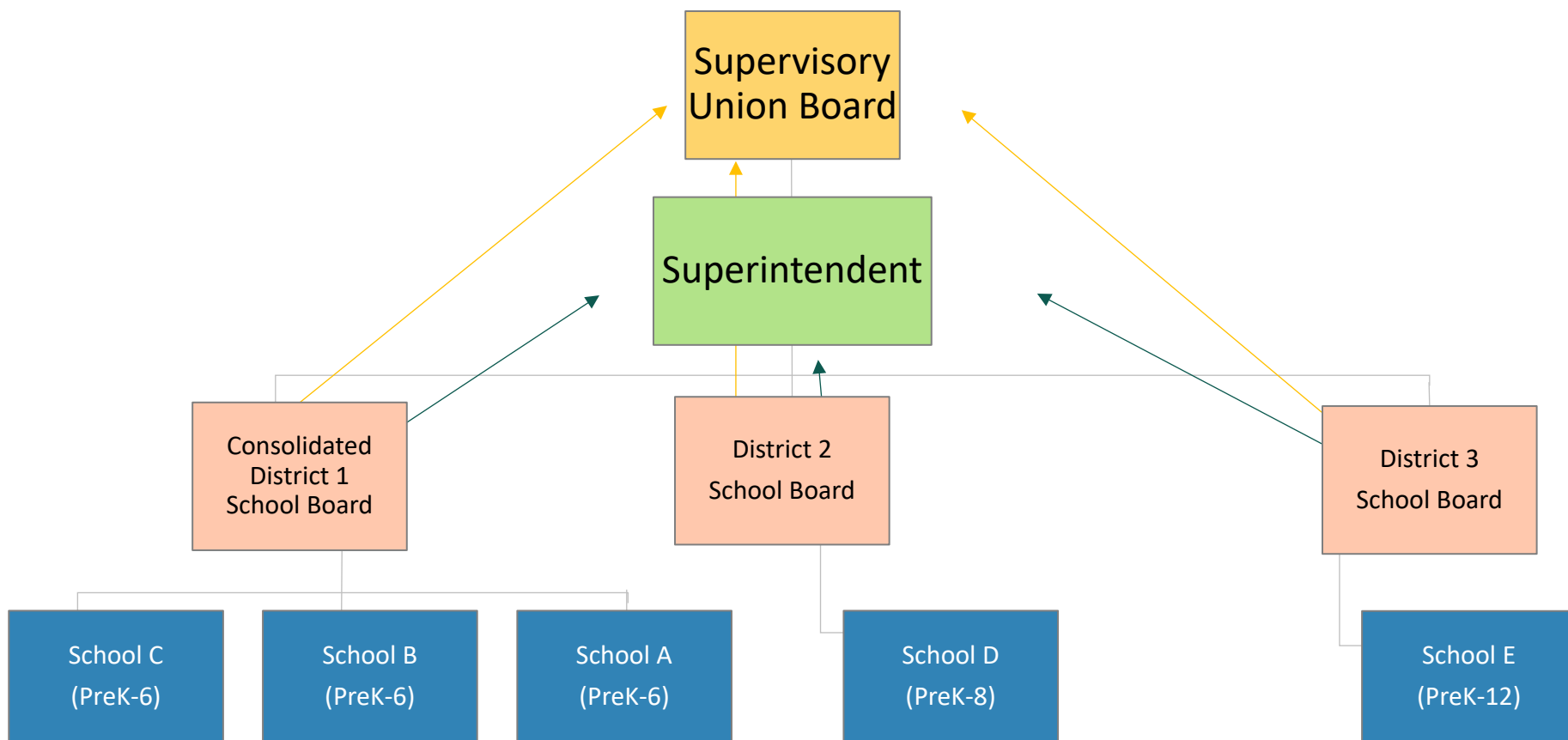
- No legal authority
- Power rests in the board as a body



# Education Governance in Vermont



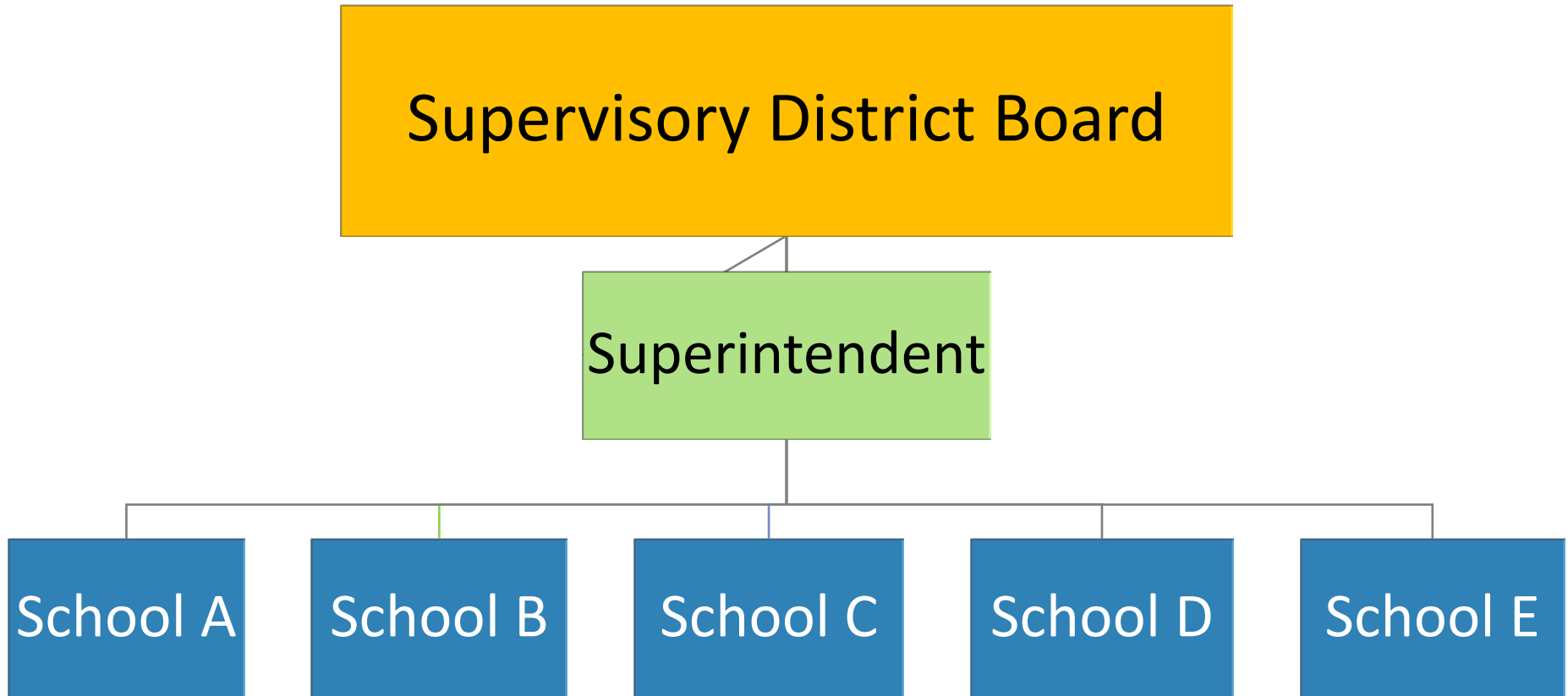
# Partially Consolidated Governance





# Consolidated Governance

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## **VSBA Vision Statement**

**The VSBA exists to achieve Vermont's vision for public education by supporting all school boards to serve as effective trustees for education on behalf of their communities and by providing a strong collective voice toward enhancing the cause of public education in Vermont.**

# VSBA Staff



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# VSBA: The collective voice for school boards

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## **Informs education policy decisions**

- Agency of Education
- State Board
- General Assembly

## **Informs members about public policy deliberations**

- Education Legislative Report
- Legislative Alerts
- Annual Legislative Update Webinar

# VSBA Supports School Boards

## Phone and Email Consultation

## Ongoing Training and Conferences

- School Board U Live Workshops
- Monthly School Board U Online Webinars
- Regional Meetings
- Annual Conference

## Meeting Planning and Facilitation

## Regular Email Updates

## Website

- [www.vtvsba.org](http://www.vtvsba.org)

## Consultation Services

- Superintendent Search
- Superintendent Evaluation
- Strategic Planning
- Policy Governance
- District Consolidation Implementation
- Vermont Education Policy

## Collective Bargaining Supports

- District negotiation website compilation
- Open Meeting Law
- Master Agreement Database
- Training and Consulting

## Publications

- Vermont Education Law Book
- *From the Boardroom* Member Newsletters
- *Essential Work of Vermont School Boards* Workbook



# The Vermont School Boards Association

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