

BOARD-DIRECTOR RELATIONSHIP

It is the primary responsibility of the Cooperative Board to formalize the mission of the Cooperative into concepts of policy and to see that these are translated into actual practice by the Director and his/her staff.

The Board believes that the most effective way of fulfilling its responsibilities is through close cooperation and teamwork between the Board and the Director. The Board-Director team has an obligation to provide educational leadership within the Cooperative. The Board-Director team must always function at a high professional and ethical level focusing on the goals to be achieved and the policies to be implemented by the Director and/or his/her designee.

As the legally designated governing body, the Board retains final authority within the Cooperative. Yet, the Director is the Board's professional advisor to whom the Board delegates executive responsibility. It is essential that each recognizes, respects and supports each other's area of responsibility. To help clarify this shared responsibility, the following operating principles are adopted:

- The Director shall be the chief administrator of the Cooperative and be directly responsible to the Board for the total administration of the Cooperative. The Board will not assume the administrative function, but will vest in the Director executive authority to carry out these administrative responsibilities.
- Important matters requiring Board action, as well as other items that are properly within the Board's function as required by law, will be presented by the Director to the Board in a responsible manner.
- Board members will honor the chain of command of the Cooperative when communicating with parents, member district administration, Cooperative personnel or others concerning Cooperative business by communicating with or making referrals to the Director. All Board decisions and communications affecting employees will be issued by the Director through regular administrative channels.
- The responsibility for determining staffing levels, and hiring, suspension, or dismissal of Cooperative personnel is vested in the Director subject to approval by the Board as required by law and within budgetary allowances. The Board recognizes that, in order to fulfill contractual responsibilities and obligations to maintain a specified level of service, the Director may need to increase or decrease staffing levels at times outside of the normal fiscal year timeline.
- The Board will take action on items and issues properly before the Board only after consultation and upon recommendation by the Director. However, the Board recognizes its legal responsibilities for the operation of the Cooperative, and may revise or reject the Director's recommendations on any item or issue.

Policy Adopted: January 15, 2014