

Questions About Student Achievement

Here are some sample questions about student achievement that every charter school board member should know the answer to.

Questions concerning accountability systems

1. What mechanisms are in place to align your school's curriculum, standards, and assessments? How does your school make sure they are aligned with state frameworks?
2. Who is involved in this type of work? How does this get addressed in your school?
3. How are your curriculum, standards, and assessment strategies linked to the specific mission and goals for your school? How does the school's culture/mission support the school's accountability strategy?
4. What does student performance and academic achievement mean in your school?
5. What can the board do to support the school's efforts?
6. Who is responsible at the school for the accountability system? What is the role of the board, school leaders, principal, Director of Curriculum and Assessment, and the teachers? Who is responsible for getting the work done?
7. How are your authorizer's requirements around accountability and charter renewal integrated into your school's accountability system?

Questions concerning your assessment procedures

1. How is your school measuring student performance and achievement?
2. What internal assessments are being used?
 - How were they developed?
 - Are they used consistently over time?
 - What do they teach your school about your students' performance?
3. What external assessments are being used?
 - Why and how did you select these assessments?
 - How do you keep track of student scores/performance?
 - When/how does your school review the results?
4. How is your school measuring/accounting for changes in student performance *over time*?

5. What shows that students are making progress?
6. Can your school look at this data on an individual and group basis?
7. How does assessment work get done at the school? How does the school's structure support the assessment activities?

Questions about using results

1. How is your school using information from internal and external assessments to improve teaching and learning in your school?
 - What do the teachers do with the assessments?
 - Does the school use this information to inform practices?
 - i. Inform what goes on in the classroom?
 - ii. Inform curriculum decisions?
 - iii. Inform school improvement efforts?
 - iv. Inform program design?
2. How does your school manage the data on student performance?
3. Is there a system in place that allows your school to analyze student achievement data on a regular basis?
4. How does this information impact / interface with your school's budgeting process?

Questions about communicating results

1. How is your school communicating assessment data to students and parents?
2. How is your school communicating assessment data to the community and other external audiences?
 - What data are reported in annual reports?
 - What data are reported to the media?
 - What are reported to your authorizer?