

## Early Learning Board

### Essential questions for governing boards

June 13, 2024

1. What is governing (vs what is management)?
  - a. Setting the mission, goals, strategic direction – the desired outcomes.
  - b. Hiring the chief executive, approving his/her objectives, and supporting and evaluating him/her.
  - c. Oversight of the organization:
    - i. Is it achieving its goals? Where's the evidence?
    - ii. Is it behaving ethically?
    - iii. Is it financially responsible?
    - iv. Is its compensation and are its working conditions competitive?
  - d. Governance is not problem-solving.
  - e. "We don't micromanage" implies "macro management" by the board is acceptable. [It isn't.]
  - f.
2. What authority does an individual governing board member have? [None, other than what the board as a whole explicitly gives an individual member.]
3. Who speaks for the board?
4. Who speaks for the organization?
5. What is the difference between "I represent ..." and "I am a representative of ..."?
6. What is the difference between telling someone what outcomes are desired and telling someone how to achieve the outcomes?
7. How should the board be organized? Vice chair? Standing committees?
8. How should a board evaluate itself? Is it doing the right thing(s) the right way? Where's the evidence?
9. How does serving on a public board differ from serving on a private, non-profit board?
10. What is the purpose of the Sunshine Law and how does it impact members of public boards?