

Board Effectiveness Indicators

Use this tool as a quick check against the best governance practices that will serve as a foundation for board effectiveness in any organization.

Click 'yes' or 'no' for each question and this form will calculate your score.

Are the majority of your board members independent from the organization?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Do you have a set of required competencies articulated for your board (and committees), and do your current board members as a whole display the entire set of required competencies?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Do you have a board manual that articulates terms of reference for the board, board committees, individual directors, and the code of conduct? Does it have a bring forward list of topics for the year?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Does at least one member of the board have extensive experience in the industry of your organization?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Does each director get a comprehensive orientation on the business of the organization and meet key senior staff before the first board meeting?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Are directors offered continuing education in governance or a program of director certification?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Does each director display a keen interest or passion in the undertaking of the organization?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Do directors regularly attend both board and committee meetings?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Are directors encouraged and supported when asking difficult or awkward questions of management?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Does the Chair solicit views from each director specifically?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Does the Chair explicitly encourage dissent and criticism to avoid groupthink? Or designate a 'devil's advocate' for a certain discussion?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Does the Chair ask board members to refrain from expressing their personal views at the outset of a discussion?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No

Does the Chair manage the timing of the board meetings to ensure there is sufficient time for discussion after each topic addressed by management?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Does the board regularly have outside experts attend to present on specific topics?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Does the board have an in-camera meeting both before and after each board meeting?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Does the board retain an independent consultant to help evaluate director and board performance?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
At the beginning of a board meeting, do the committee chairs have an opportunity to summarize (verbally or in writing) the issues addressed and decisions taken at prior committee meetings?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Does the board have an effective system to provide board members with timely, relevant and reliable financial and strategic information about the organization?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Does the board review the risk identification and management system of the organization?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Does the board approve the business plan and major expenditures?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Does the board work with the CEO and senior staff to develop and review the strategic plan?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
TOTAL:		

Board Effectiveness Indicators Scale

If you score above 21, congratulations, you have the foundations of an effective board.

If you score below 21, you have opportunities to improve your board's effectiveness.