



ATLANTA
PUBLIC
SCHOOLS

Division of Performance
+ Information Technology

Student Outcomes Focused Governance

A Continuous Improvement Framework

School systems exist for one reason and one reason only: to improve student outcomes. The Atlanta Board of Education is implementing the Council of the Great City Schools' (CGCS) Student Outcomes Focused Governance framework in order to identify strengths and weaknesses as well as to track progress along the journey toward improving student outcomes.

FRAMEWORK

The framework is built around six research-informed competencies that describe school board behaviors and the degree to which they create the conditions for improvements in student outcomes:



**Vision +
Goals**



**Values +
Guardrails**



**Monitoring +
Accountability**



**Communication
+ Collaboration**



**Unity +
Trust**



**Continuous
Improvement**

The first steps to this framework is for the Board to adopt Goals and Guardrails:

Goals

- Reveal community's vision for student outcomes and describe what the community wants its students to know and be able to do
- Ideal Goals are Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Results-Focused, Time Bound (S.M.A.R.T.)
- Describe what the District is trying to accomplish and are only about student outcomes

Guardrails

- Based on the community's values and aligned to the community's vision and goals
- Operational strategic action the Superintendent may not use or allow in pursuit of the District's student outcome goals
- Inputs, not outcomes - relate to what adults will do to cause the goals to happen ("GO until we say STOP")

PLAN

Once the school board clarifies the priorities (Goals and Guardrails), the superintendent determines how best to implement them. From that point on, the work of the school board shifts to monitoring progress to ensure that reality increasingly matches the Goals and Guardrails.

Student outcomes don't change until adult behaviors change.

** Adapted and sourced from Council of Great City Schools*

