

Research has clearly demonstrated that public school boards can - and do - play a significant role in their district's student achievement.

During the course of the Lighthouse Project (a research study using over 10 years of data, conducted by the Iowa Association of School Boards and the Iowa Education Foundation, to see if school boards made a difference in student learning and to define the role of the school board in student achievement), **the data determined that school boards in high achieving districts are significantly different than school boards in low achieving districts in what they believe, in what they know and in what they do.**

They identified 5 leadership roles for school boards in improving student achievement. Every KSBA training module is designed with these 5 roles in mind.

Leadership Roles of the School Board	
1	<p>Set clear and high expectations</p> <p><i>Truly believe more is possible for your students.</i></p> <p><i>Establish a clear focus for improvements.</i></p>
2	<p>Create the conditions for success</p> <p><i>Demonstrate commitment to improvement through board discussion and action.</i></p> <p><i>Align all parts of the system around the students learning needs.</i></p>
3	<p>Hold the system accountable</p> <p><i>Determine indicators (evidence) of progress and success.</i></p> <p><i>Routinely monitor, receive reports and ask questions.</i></p>
4	<p>Create the public will to succeed</p> <p><i>Create awareness of the district needs.</i></p> <p><i>Connect with the community.</i></p>
5	<p>Learn as a board team</p> <p><i>Establish time to learn together as a board/superintendent team.</i></p> <p><i>Talk about what is most important – engage in policy development to sustain improvements for all students.</i></p>