

Frequently Asked Questions:

The AGB Board Performance Survey



What is the Board Performance Survey?

Included with AGB membership, the Board Performance Survey provides a snapshot of your board's performance by identifying strengths and areas for improvement. The survey is designed to be completed by individual board members, and the results can be used by your board as an opportunity for reflection, board education, and constructive dialogue.

How is the survey different from a board assessment?

The survey briefly probes how board members view their board's overall performance in mission and strategy, oversight, sustainability, leadership, performance, and culture.

A full board assessment is a comprehensive and structured evaluation that delves deep into dimensions such as individual board member contributions, committee effectiveness, adherence to governance policies, and overall dynamics within the board. A full board assessment involves in-depth interviews and self-assessments and is facilitated by a third-party to provide a thorough and unbiased analysis of the board's performance, strengths, weaknesses, and areas for improvement.

What is the recommended frequency for conducting the Board Performance Survey versus a full board assessment?

AGB suggests completing the Board Performance Survey annually and undergoing a facilitated assessment of the board every three to five years and a facilitated deep dive assessment every eight to 10 years or during periods of change. Boards should always be aware of their accreditor's expectations, and plan formal assessments accordingly.

AGB offers facilitated board assessments with experts who provide deep insights into performance, impact, and areas for optimization. Review AGB's FAQs on [Assessing the Board](#) and [Assessing Individual Board Members](#).

What questions are included in the Board Performance Survey? Can it be customized?

AGB provides three different survey versions: institution boards, system boards, and foundation boards. Each survey comprises up to 30 fixed questions and cannot be customized. The surveys cover these areas:

Institution Board Performance Survey

- » Section 1: Mission and Strategy
- » Section 2: Leadership and Shared Governance
- » Section 3: Institutional Sustainability
- » Section 4: Quality of Educational Experience
- » Section 5: Board Performance
- » Section 6: Board Culture

System Board Performance Survey

- » Section 1: Mission and Strategy
- » Section 2: Leadership and Shared Governance
- » Section 3: System Sustainability and Oversight
- » Section 4: Quality of Educational Experience
- » Section 5: Board Performance
- » Section 6: Board Culture

Foundation Board Performance Survey

- » Section 1: Mission and Strategy
- » Section 2: Leadership
- » Section 3: Oversight and Accountability
- » Section 4: Culture of Philanthropy
- » Section 5: Board Performance
- » Section 6: Board Culture

How do I get started with my survey?

The survey is designed to be facilitated by your board professional or board liaison in coordination with your AGB Membership team. Your board professional, board chair, and president or CEO should agree that the survey is an exercise your board wants to undertake and coordinate to ensure appropriate timing of the survey. Members are granted a 12-week window to access, distribute, and review the survey results through AGB's partitioned Qualtrics account.

How much time does the survey take?

The time it takes to complete the survey by each board member can vary widely but typically ranges from 15 to 20 minutes.

Get started today.

AGB.org/Board-Performance-Survey

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