

Mission and Strategy

An effective Florida Education Foundation has:

1. A clear mission publicly stated that is clearly connected to student success.
2. Organizational (strategic) plans that describe how current work aligns with the mission.

Program Quality

An effective Florida Education Foundation includes Programs that are:

3. Responsive to local needs and/or aligned with school district priorities.
4. Aligned with mission.
5. Demonstrate impact through clear measurement.
6. Cost-effective.

Board and Leadership

Local Education Foundations in Florida have:

7. Roles for board members and CEO clearly defined in writing.
8. Board members are successfully recruited to maintain participation and engagement with the organization.
9. Regular reviews of Board performance.
10. Regular reviews of CEO performance.
11. Clear orientation for Board members.
12. Ongoing learning and development in place for board and CEO.
13. Broad-based board membership enabling deliberations among Board and CEO on substantive matters for the improvement of the Foundation.

Fundraising and Sustainability

In order to support an Education Foundation:

14. Effective donor relations and communication are in place.
15. Annual fund development plans guide fundraising activities.
16. There are clear roles for Board and staff in fundraising.
17. Leadership makes efforts to diversify revenue sources.
18. Long term relationships and infrastructure for sustaining donors over time are built including consideration of options for planned giving and endowments.

Partnerships, Public Awareness and Engagement

Foundations must be oriented and connected towards the broader community by:

19. Effectively working with the local school district on aligned efforts.
20. Connecting to other relevant local partners and business and community for relationship building and ongoing program connections.
21. Building an identifiable brand and independent identity that is promoted in the community.
22. Aligning messages from the foundation with mission and programs.
23. Following clear policies and procedures for advocacy and connection to official decision making (school board, legislature)

Effective Business and Organizational Operations

Education Foundations operate effectively as demonstrated by building:

24. A clearly defined working relationship with the school district.
25. Procedures for compliance with Federal, State and Local requirements and policies.
26. A budget that pays for insurance for directors, programs and organizational liability.
27. Internal controls that meet industry standards for financial and operational management.
28. A leadership succession plan.
29. Clear policies for staff salary and benefits appropriate for local context.
30. An annual budget – approved by the board – including an established policy on operational reserve.