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# Independent Schools Governance Workshops

Governance workshops cover a range of Governance topics and can be designed specifically to educate and assist your school board. The workshops are regularly updated in response to changes in legislation and regulations, improvements in recognised best practice and the changing needs of independent schools.

The purpose of the workshops is:

- to raise governors' awareness of their legal obligations as directors of public companies
- to examine the relationships between the school board, the chair of the board, the head of the school and the business manager
- to promote best practice in the governance of independent schools.

The AIS Governance workshops are a key element in the provision of high quality, proactive support to member independent schools. Workshops can be customised to meet the specific needs of individual school boards.

The structure of the program is divided into two sessions, which can be chosen from the options on the reverse of this leaflet.

For any enquiries or to schedule a Governance Workshop for your school board, please contact Gareth Scott at [gscott@aisnsw.edu.au](mailto:gscott@aisnsw.edu.au) or phone 02 9248 3756.



Completing the Independent Schools Governance Workshops will contribute towards NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA) Registration and Accreditation Standards addressing 3.9.3.4 of the NESA Registered and Accredited Individual Non-Government Schools (NSW) Manual.

# Sessions

For the school's convenience Governance Workshops are conducted at the school. The program is complimentary to member schools as part of the school's membership subscription.

## Session One | School Governance: The Independent Sector

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- AIS membership
- Membership services
- The independent school sector
- School funding
- School affiliations

## Session Two | School Governance: Current and Emerging Issues

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- Governance trends
- Emerging issues for school boards
- Case studies
- 'Value add' and value for money
- Factors influencing educational outcomes
- Teacher quality

## Session Three | Governance for Independent Schools: Key responsibilities

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- Recent governance case studies
- Director's duties
- Financial governance
- Charter of operations for school boards
- Section 83C NSW Education Act
- NESA and school governance

## Session Four | Managing Risk in Schools Part 1

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- Risk scenarios
- Responsibility of the board
- Risk delegation
- Risk perspectives

## Session Five | Managing Risk in Schools Part 2

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- What is risk and risk management?
- Risk management vs risk aversion
- The role of the board and risk
- Risk management policy
- Risk management systems
- Establishing a risk management framework

## Session Six | Executive Supervision

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- How do boards increase the likelihood that management will be successful?
- Executive supervision – too little or too much?
- The board/principal relationship
- The board/principal delegation
- The board's 'value add'
- Recent legislative changes

## Session Seven | Strategy

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- What is strategy?
- Strategic governance models
- Strategic planning in schools
- The board's role in strategy
- Identifying key strategies
- Implementation

## Session Eight | Financial Governance – Part 1

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- The board's role
- Directors' duties
- Insolvency
- Role of the financial committee
- Monitoring financial performance
- Financial risk

## Session Nine | Financial Governance – Part 2

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- Budgets
- Financial reporting
- Financial analysis
- Dashboard and ratio analysis
- Case study analysis

## Session Ten | Reputation Risk

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- Reputation case studies
- Identification of key reputation risks
- Managing responses
- Practice exercise in managing reputation risk
- Mitigation of reputation risks

## Session Eleven | The School's Legal Structure

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- The constitution
- Fiduciary
- Legal duties
- Fit and proper persons

## Session Twelve | Keeping Children Safe: Understanding the Dynamics of Child Abuse

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- Legislative compliance and relevant policies
- Child safe organisations
- Understanding sexual abuse
- Risk in schools
- Organisational culture

## Session Thirteen | Defining School Success

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- Case study
- Measures of success – which ones count?
- Sample school mission/vision statements
- Discussion
- 10 questions director might ask
- Leading success