



Quality Standards for Local Education Foundations Scoring Grid

STANDARD AREA	# OF STANDARDS	MAX SCORE*	LEVEL 1	LEVEL 2	LEVEL 3
Mission and Strategy	2	12	0-5	6-9	10-12
Program Quality	4	24	0-10	11-17	18-24
Board and Leadership	7	42	0-17	18-29	30-42
Fundraising and Sustainability	5	30	0-12	13-22	23-30
Partnerships, Public Awareness and Engagement	5	30	0-12	13-22	23-30
Effective Business and Organizational Operations	7	42	0-17	18-29	30-42

**Maximum score of 6 per standard*

Overall Tiers:

Exemplary = Reaches Level 3 in at least 4 Standard areas

Distinguished = Reaches Level 2 or better in at least 4 Standard areas

Certified = All others unless 3 or more Standard areas are 0

Developing = 3 or more Standard areas are 0

Want to review the documents you submitted or upload updated documentation?

You may now access your Foundations for Excellence submission through our grants management online platform!

Your data is only available to your foundation through your unique login. With your permission, we may share some of your submitted evidence as examples for other members who are going through the quality standards review process.

Contact CFEF Director of Member Development Tracy Burger for access to your data and any questions.

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CFEF Foundations for Excellence: Quality Standards for Local Education Foundations

[CYCLE]

[FOUNDATION]



Rating = [RATING]

STANDARD	SCORE	REVIEWER COMMENTS
A. MISSION AND STRATEGY	0	
A1 A clear mission publicly stated that is clearly connected to student success.		
A2 Organizational (strategic) plans that describe how current work aligns with the mission.		
B. PROGRAM QUALITY	0	
B3 Are responsive to local needs and/or aligned with school district priorities.		
B4 Are aligned with mission.		
B5 Demonstrate impact (producing positive outcomes) through clear measurement.		
B6 Are cost-effective.		
C. BOARD AND LEADERSHIP	0	
C7 Roles for board members and CEO clearly defined in writing.		
C8 Board members are successfully recruited to maintain participation and engagement with the organization.		
C9 Annual reviews of Board performance		
C10 Regular reviews of CEO (board leader for all-volunteer organizations) performance.		
C11 Clear orientation for Board members.		
C12 Ongoing learning and development in place for board and CEO.		
C13 Broad-based board membership enabling deliberations among Board and CEO on substantive matters for the improvement of the Foundation.		
D. FUNDRAISING AND SUSTAINABILITY	0	
D14 Effective donor relations and communication are in place.		
D15 Annual fund development plans guide fundraising activities.		
D16 There are clear roles for Board and staff in fundraising.		
D17 Leadership makes efforts to diversify revenue sources.		
D18 Long term relationships and infrastructure for sustaining donors over time are built including consideration of options for planned giving and endowments.		
E. PARTNERSHIPS, PUBLIC AWARENESS AND ENGAGEMENT	0	
E19 Effectively working with the local school district on aligned efforts.		
E20 Connecting to other relevant local partners and business and community for relationship building and ongoing program connections.		
E21 Building an identifiable brand and independent identity that is promoted in the community.		
E22 Aligning messages from the foundation with mission and programs.		
E23 Following clear policies and procedures for advocacy and connection to official decision making (school board, legislature).		
F. EFFECTIVE BUSINESS AND ORGANIZATIONAL OPERATIONS	0	
F24 A clearly defined working relationship with the school district.		
F25 Procedures for compliance with Federal, State and Local requirements and policies.		
F26 A budget that pays for insurance for directors, programs and organizational liability.		
F27 Internal controls that meet industry standards for financial and operational management.		
F28 A leadership succession plan.		
F29 Clear policies for staff salary and benefits appropriate for local context.		
F30 An annual budget - approved by the board - including an established policy on operational reserve.		