

# **The Role of School Board Members in Reducing District Excellent Gaps**

## **Board/Superintendent Team Training Module – 75 minutes**

Only 3% of Kentucky's low-income fourth-graders and 2% of low-income eighth-graders scored advanced on national assessments. This is one example of the seriousness of Excellence Gaps in this state. School board members accept the responsibility to insure that all students have the opportunity to learn as much as they can. This training module will use videos, scenarios, and small group discussions to build an understanding of Excellence Gaps and why it is imperative that more students from all demographic groups learn at advanced levels. Board members will be prepared to examine their local district policies and make changes that will accelerate learning for students.

Information presented in this training module is applicable in a Board member's role as a charter school authorizer.

### **Outline of Presentation**

1. Slides 2-9 – Handout – Six Myths of Gifted Education that Lead to Overlooking Talented Minority Students  
After participants mark statements as true or false, discuss correct answers.
2. Slide 10 – Why is it important for students to be learning at advanced levels?  
Discussion
3. Slide 11 - What is the Excellence Gap?  
Discussion
4. Slide 12 - Show video – *Give Excellence a Chance*
5. Slide 13 – Discussion of video using Think-Pair-Share
6. Slide 14 – Read quote.
7. Slides 15 – Scenarios – Divide audience into groups and distribute one scenario to each group to read and discuss. Each group should select a recorder to take notes and a reporter to share.
8. Slide 16 – Questions to focus the discussion of scenarios
9. Slide 17 – What can you, as a school board member, do about the Excellence Gap? – Discuss

10. Slide 18 – Show video – *The Role of School Board Members in Reducing Excellence Gaps*
11. Slides 19-26 – Intended and Unintended Consequences of Policies – Working in groups, discuss the six policies and jot down intended and unintended consequences of each on the blank handout. Discuss and give completed handout.
12. Slide 27 – What can you do in your role to reduce Excellence Gaps? – Discussion
13. Slide 28 – Information in this training session is applicable in your role as a charter school authorizer.
13. Slide 29 – Explanation of Follow-Up Module.

### **Follow-Up Module – 30 minutes**

1. Handout – School/District Excellence Gaps  
Examine your local districts’ and schools’ Excellence Gaps. What gaps do you see?
2. Handout – Reflecting on School Board Policies  
Gather information about what policies are in place and what needs to be done to remove the learning ceiling and accelerate learning.

#### Online Toolkit

This kit contains videos, reports, documents, pamphlets, and other materials addressing the Excellence Gap and Gifted Education.