

Independent Schools Governance Program

2025



School Governance Training

Today's education stakeholders expect independent school governing bodies to be capable to competently govern their school within an increasingly complex regulatory and economically competitive environment. The challenge for governing boards is to achieve the right balance between monitoring risk, compliance and performance, while strategically directing the school into the future.

School boards that value ongoing governance training demonstrate that they take the fiduciary duties they have accepted as stewards of their organisations seriously. They also set an example for the lifelong learning they espouse for their students.

Independent Schools Queensland (ISQ) is committed to supporting member schools through its provision of high-quality professional learning and bespoke services. The Independent Schools Governance Program is one of ISQ's flagship programs developed specifically for an independent school setting and offers a wide range of school governance training options to suit all school contexts.

ISQ's school governance professional learning provides relevant, timely and enjoyable training and support to those on governing bodies and senior executive teams of independent schools in Queensland. Each program is tailored to ensure participants understand their role and obligations, and instils them with the confidence to lead as a school governor. For senior executives, the program offers a comprehensive understanding of good governance, the role and responsibility of management, and how to effectively support the governing process.

Choose from a wealth of relevant, in-depth professional learning programs and masterclasses and harness the expertise of ISQ at every stage of your governance journey. ISQ's induction workshops are designed to assist those new to boards, while the industry-leading ISQ School Governance Course is the ideal option for those looking to build their capacity. Experienced governors can benefit from ISQ's governance masterclasses and bespoke training solutions, proving ISQ is the premier governance partner for Queensland's independent schooling sector.

ISQ School Governance Course

The ISQ School Governance Course is the leading governance training option for Queensland's independent schooling sector. This industry-specific, comprehensive training program is designed for school governing body members and senior executives who want to place their governance capabilities on a firm footing. Successful completion of the ISQ School Governance Course empowers participants to confidently fulfil their governance duties and add value to their organisation.

MODULE	WHAT YOU WILL LEARN
1 DEFINING GOVERNANCE ROLES LEARN MORE	Discover corporate governance models and understand the vital roles and functions that governing bodies and individual governors play in the effective oversight of an organisation.
2 LEGAL ENVIRONMENT AND DIRECTOR DUTIES LEARN MORE	Understand the complex regulatory environment in which independent schools and their governing bodies operate and gain an appreciation of the significant legal and fiduciary duties of directors.
3 DECISION-MAKING SUPPORTED BY BOARD PROCESSES LEARN MORE	Comprehend board decision-making processes and techniques, and explore how leading practice agendas, minutes, board calendars and executive reports support governors in determining effective resolutions.
4 FINANCIAL REPORTING LEARN MORE	Recognise why financial literacy is a fundamental requirement for any governing body member and learn about balance sheets, income and cash flow statements and how they relate to one another.
5 MONITORING FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE LEARN MORE	Develop competency in guiding a school's financial performance by interpreting financial ratios and understanding the budgeting process with a specific emphasis on the prohibition to trade while insolvent.
6 EXECUTIVE OVERSIGHT AND DEVELOPMENT LEARN MORE	Foster proficiency in assessing, overseeing and reviewing the performance of the Principal/CEO and understand the different roles the governing body performs with respect to the school's most senior executive.
7 STRATEGIC PLANNING LEARN MORE	Expand your understanding of the board's role in setting and implementing organisational strategy and developing performance measures to monitor progress and delivery of strategic imperatives.
8 RISK MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK LEARN MORE	Understand current risk frameworks and the board's role in articulating risk appetite, implementing risk governance systems and monitoring strategic and operational risks.
9 COMPLIANCE AND POLICY FRAMEWORK LEARN MORE	Learn about policy and compliance frameworks and engage with compliance management processes to assist your governing body in meeting its reporting and accountability requirements.
10 STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND NETWORKING LEARN MORE	Comprehend the importance and value of developing networks and explore the use of stakeholder engagement tools.
11 BOARD EFFECTIVENESS LEARN MORE	Identify how the elements of board performance evaluation, induction, succession planning, board development and director protection contribute to the effectiveness of a governing body.
12 BOARDROOM DYNAMICS LEARN MORE	Explore typical board room dynamics and understand how individual and collective behaviours can impact a governing body's decision-making and performance.

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ISQ School Governance Course (continued)

As a participant in ISQ's School Governance Course, you will enjoy the following benefits:

- Twelve engaging modules (90 minutes each) covering all aspects of independent school governance. Each module is delivered once per term, often at convenient times before the start of the workday or towards the end of the workday. Webinars include opportunities for participants to engage with fellow directors by discussing interesting case studies.
- Comprehensive course notes and practical governance tools and templates related to each module.
- An interactive online environment to meet other board members, share resources, ask for advice and discuss governance matters.

COST \$540 | \$55 per module (member)
| \$110 per module (non-member)

* Pre-pay for the full suite of Governance Modules (12 in total) to receive a \$120 discount

MODE Webinar

LENGTH 90 minutes per module

REGISTER

ISQ School Governance Masterclasses

ISQ School Governance Masterclasses are designed to equip governing body members with skills and understanding relevant to the big school governance issues of the day. Each ISQ School Governance Masterclass brings together governance and industry experts, current board chairs, directors and principals in a stimulating environment of information sharing and networking.

COST Face-to-face
\$180.40 (member) | \$399.30 (non-member)

MODE Face-to-face

LENGTH 2 hours

REGISTER – MASTERCLASS 1

REGISTER – MASTERCLASS 2

ISQ Self-Paced Governance Learning Modules

ISQ offers three online learning modules for school governing body members who want to gain a basic understanding of their governance responsibilities at their own pace.

Child Protection for Principals and Board Directors

aims to assist governing body members to be aware of the legislated child protection reporting responsibilities applicable to independent schools in Queensland. This forms one step that schools must take to create child safe organisations. [VIEW NOW](#)

Governance Induction consists of three self-paced learning units and supports governing body members to gain an understanding of the roles and responsibilities of directors and boards, and of the policies and processes that boards must develop, implement and maintain to ensure efficiency, transparency and compliance. [VIEW NOW](#)

Governance Finance teaches basic financial literacy skills to board members with little or no prior knowledge in interpreting financial statements. The four learning units in this self-paced module develop board members' capability to make informed judgements about the financial situation of their school. [VIEW NOW](#)

COST Free

MODE Online

LENGTH 60–80 minutes per unit

ISQ Bespoke School Governance Training

In response to the diverse governance needs of schools, ISQ is well placed to provide bespoke training options to school boards and councils. In consultation with board chairs, ISQ's governance experts can tailor governance training to the identified development needs of boards. Bespoke training solutions can be delivered via face-to-face and online modes.

COST Proposal

MODE Face-to-face or webinar

LENGTH Flexible

LEARN MORE



ISQ School Governance New Director Induction

New board members and members new to governing in the independent schooling sector will find the School Governance Induction Workshop beneficial. It features an orientation to the sector, introduces the key responsibilities and duties of directors, and facilitates discussions on typical governance challenges that are unique to school governance. Many boards include this workshop in the induction process of each new board member.

DATE	Term 1
COST	Free (member) \$74.80 (non-member)
MODE	Online
LENGTH	90 minutes

[REGISTER](#)

DATE	Term 2
COST	Free (member) \$74.80 (non-member)
MODE	Online
LENGTH	90 minutes

[REGISTER](#)

DATE	Term 3
COST	Free (member) \$74.80 (non-member)
MODE	Online
LENGTH	90 minutes

[REGISTER](#)

DATE	Term 4
COST	Free (member) \$74.80 (non-member)
MODE	Online
LENGTH	90 minutes

[REGISTER](#)