



# Northeast Community College Board Policy Manual

## Governance Process Policy Policy Number: GP - 12

### Board Linkage with Ownership

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The Owners of Northeast Community College are defined as all citizens of the College service area. The Board shall be accountable for the organization to its Owners as a whole. Board members shall act on behalf of the Owners as a whole, rather than being advocates for specific geographic areas, ethnic groups or other interest groups.

1. When making governance decisions, Board members shall maintain a distinction between their personal interests as customers, of the College's services, and their obligation to speak for others as a representative of the Owners as a whole. As the agent of the Owners, the Board is obligated to identify and know what the Owners want and need.
2. The Board shall gather data in a way that reflects the diversity of the Ownership. The Board is expected to meet with, gather input from, and otherwise interact with Owners in order to understand the diversity of their values and perspectives.
3. The Board will maintain a four-year Ownership linkage plan, in order to ensure that the Board has intentional and constructive dialogue and deliberation with the Owners, primarily around the organization's Ends. The plan will include selection of representative Owners for dialogue, methods to be used, and questions to be asked of the Owners. The information obtained from this dialogue with Owners will be used to inform the Board's policy deliberations.
  - 3.1. All Board members are accountable to the Board for participating in the linkage with Owners as identified in the plan.
4. The Board will consider its Ownership linkage successful if, to a continually increasing degree:
  - When developing or revising Ends, the Board has access to diverse viewpoints that are representative of the Ownership regarding what benefits this organization should provide, for whom, and the relative priority of those benefits.
  - The Owners are aware that the Board is interested in their perspective, as owners and not as customers.
  - If asked, the Owners would say that they have had opportunity to let the Board know their views.
  - The Owners are aware of how the Board has used the information they provided.

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