

CSDA Key Learnings Workshop Participation Guidelines

As a Board we're seeking to hold a productive goal-setting workshop. For the group process to be enjoyable, cooperative, and productive we are asking each Director to:

- ✓ Take responsibility for helping the Board achieve a positive outcome.
- ✓ Listen carefully to what your fellow Directors are saying.
- ✓ Monitor your level of participation (neither dominate nor withhold).
- ✓ Be aware of our purpose, stay on topic.
- ✓ Engage with, build on, respond to the ideas from fellow Directors.
- ✓ Express disagreement or concerns constructively, with respect.
- ✓ Be aware of how verbal and non-verbal signals impact group dynamics.
- ✓ Avoid side conversations when we are conducting business as a whole.
- ✓ Be fully present, (i.e. avoid unnecessary use of smart phones).
- ✓ Come with a clear and unmade mind.

CONSENSUS DECISION MAKING

Building consensus is the process the group goes through to reach unity of agreement. In its simplest terms, consensus refers to agreement (on some decision) by all members of a group. Consensus needs five ingredients to be successful; a group of people willing to work together, a problem or issue that requires a decision by the group, trust that there is a solution, belief that all persons have some part of the solution (and that we will reach a better decision by putting all of the pieces together before proceeding), and perseverance to find the best group solution.

These attitudes and skills will help a group move in a more creative, inclusive, and healthy direction.