



*New NAES Pamphlet Series*

## **Principles of Good Practice for Governance in Episcopal Parish Day Schools**

*Approved by the Governing Board of the  
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### **Introduction**

Over nine hundred parishes and cathedrals in the Episcopal Church have a school as part of their ministry. Parish day schools are a vital dimension of the Episcopal Church's ministry of outreach, and each year a growing number of children are nurtured in mind, body, and spirit in our parish schools.

The NAES *Strategic Plan 2001* describes governance of day schools in the parish setting as a challenge because "the levels of communication and accountability required by the complex nature of Episcopal schools' relationships with other church entities call for special expertise and leadership development." The complexity of governance in the parish day school model can include more than twenty-three groups of stakeholders, which adds up to thousands of people with intersecting interests who are part of the school setting. It is no wonder that vestries, rectors, school boards, and heads, who share the responsibility for