

**BOARD BYLAWS**

**SUBJECT: Governance Standards**

The County Board of Education believes that its primary responsibility is to act in the best interests of every student in County Office of Education programs. The County Board of Education also has major commitments to parents/guardians, all members of the community, employees, the state of California, laws pertaining to public education, and established policies of the County Office of Education. To maximize County Board of Education effectiveness and public confidence in the County Office of Education governance, County Board of Education members are expected to govern responsibly and hold themselves to the highest standards of ethical conduct.

(cf. 9000 - Role of the Board)  
(cf. 9270 - Conflict of Interest)

The County Board of Education expects its members to work with each other and the County Superintendent of Schools to ensure that a high-quality education is provided to each student. Each individual County Board of Education member shall:

1. Keep learning and achievement for all students as the primary focus
2. Value, support and advocate for public education

(cf. 9010 - Public Statements)

3. Recognize and respect differences of perspective and style on the County Board of Education and among staff, students, parents and the community
4. Act with dignity, and understand the implications of demeanor and behavior
5. Keep confidential matters confidential

(cf. 9011 - Disclosure of Confidential/Privileged Information)

6. Participate in professional development and commit the time and energy necessary to be an informed and effective leader

(cf. 9240 - Development In-Service)

7. Understand the distinctions between County Board of Education and staff roles, and refrain from performing management functions that are the responsibility of the County Superintendent of Schools and staff

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8. Understand that authority rests with the County Board of Education as a whole and not with individuals

(cf. 9200 - Members)

County Board of Education members also shall assume collective responsibility for building unity and creating a positive organizational culture. To operate effectively, the County Board of Education shall have a unity of purpose and:

1. Keep the County Office of Education focused on learning and achievement for all students
2. Work collaboratively with the County Superintendent
3. Communicate a common vision

(cf. 0000 - Concepts and Roles)

(cf. 0100 - Mission Statement)

4. Operate openly, with trust and integrity
5. Govern in a dignified and professional manner, treating everyone with civility and respect
6. Govern within County Office of Education-adopted policies and procedures

(cf. 9311 - Formulation, Adoption, Amendment of Policies)

(cf. 9312 - Formulation, Adoption, Amendment of Bylaws)

7. Take collective responsibility for the County Board of Education's performance
8. Periodically evaluate its own effectiveness
9. Ensure opportunities for the diverse range of views in the community to inform County Board of Education deliberations

(cf. 9323 - Meeting Conduct)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

1040 Duties and responsibilities; county boards of education

1042 County Boards; authority

33319.5 Implementation of authority of local agencies

35160 Authority of county boards

35164 Actions by majority vote

GOVERNMENT CODE

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1090 Financial interest in contract  
1098 Disclosure of confidential information  
1125-1129 Incompatible activities  
54950-54962 The Ralph M. Brown Act  
87300-87313 Conflict of interest code

MANAGEMENT RESOURCES:

CSBA PUBLICATIONS

CSBA Professional Governance Standards, 2000

Maximizing School Board Leadership: Boardsmanship, 1996

WEB SITES

CSBA: [www.csba.org](http://www.csba.org)