

Bylaw 9005: Governance Standards

Status: DRAFT

Original Adopted Date: 02/15/2001

The Governing Board expects itself to act in the best interests of every student in the district within the legal confines established by law and the fiscal confines established by the budget. The Board shall govern the district responsibly and uphold the highest standards of ethical conduct.

In order to set the direction for the district, provide a high quality education to each student, ensure proper accountability and oversight of the district and the Superintendent, and offer community leadership on behalf of the district and public education, the Board expects itself to have a unity of purpose and to:

1. Keep the district focused on learning and achievement for all students
2. Communicate a common vision
3. Operate openly, with trust and integrity
4. Govern in a dignified and professional manner, treating everyone with civility and respect
5. Govern within Board-adopted policies and procedures
6. Take collective responsibility for the Board's performance
7. Periodically evaluate its own effectiveness
8. Ensure opportunities for the diverse range of views in the community to inform Board deliberations

In fulfilling its role, the Board is responsible for:

1. Involving the community, parents/guardians, students, and staff in regularly developing or updating a common vision for the district focused on learning and achievement and responsive to the needs of all students
2. Adopting and updating policies consistent with law and the district's vision and goals
3. Maintaining accountability for student learning by adopting curricula and monitoring student progress
4. Hiring and supporting the Superintendent so that the vision, goals, and policies of the district can be implemented
5. Conducting regular and timely evaluations of the Superintendent based on the vision, goals, and performance of the district, and ensuring that the Superintendent holds district personnel accountable
6. Adopting a fiscally responsible budget based on the district's vision and goals, and regularly monitoring the fiscal health of the district
7. Ensuring that a safe and appropriate educational environment is provided to all students
8. Establishing a framework for the district's collective bargaining process and adopting responsible agreements
9. Providing community leadership on educational issues and advocating on behalf of students and public education at the local, state, and federal levels

In addition, each individual Board member is expected to:

1. Keep learning and achievement for all students as the primary focus
2. Value, support, and advocate for public education
3. Recognize and respect differences of perspective and style on the Board and among staff, students, parents/guardians, and the community
4. Act with dignity, and understand the implications of demeanor and behavior
5. Keep confidential matters confidential
6. Participate in professional development and commit the time and energy necessary to be an informed and effective leader
7. Understand the distinctions between Board and staff roles, and refrain from performing management functions that are the responsibility of the Superintendent and staff
8. Understand that authority rests with the Board as a whole and not with individuals

The Governing Board believes that its primary responsibility is to act in the best interests of every student in the district. The Board 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 district. To maximize Board effectiveness and public confidence in district governance, Board 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 Board expects its members to work with each other and the Superintendent to ensure that a high-quality education is provided to each student. Each individual Board 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 Board 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 – Board Development)

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

(cf. 2122 – Superintendent of Schools: Responsibilities and Duties)

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

{cf. 9200 – Members}

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

1. Keep the district focused on learning and achievement for all students

2. Communicate a common vision

{cf. 0000 – Vision}

{cf. 0100 – Philosophy}

{cf. 0200 – Goals for the School District}

3. Operate openly, with trust and integrity

4. Govern in a dignified and professional manner, treating everyone with civility and respect

5. Govern within Board-adopted policies and procedures

{cf. 9311 – Board Policies}

{cf. 9312 – Board Bylaws}

6. Take collective responsibility for the Board's performance

7. Periodically evaluate its own effectiveness

{cf. 9400 – Board Self-Evaluation}

8. Ensure opportunities for the diverse range of views in the community to inform Board deliberations

{cf. 1220 – Citizen Advisory Committees}

{cf. 9323 – Meeting Conduct}

Policy Reference Disclaimer: These references are not intended to be part of the policy itself, nor do they indicate the basis or authority for the Governing Board to enact this policy. Instead, they are provided as additional resources for those interested in the subject matter of the policy.

State

Ed. Code 35010

Description

[Control of district; prescription and enforcement of rules](#)

Ed. Code 35160

[Authority of governing boards](#)

Ed. Code 35164

[Actions by majority vote](#)

Gov. Code 1090

[Financial interest in contract](#)

Gov. Code 1098

[Disclosure of confidential information](#)

Gov. Code 54950-54963

[The Ralph M. Brown Act](#)

Gov. Code 87300-87313

[Conflict of interest code](#)

Management Resources

CSBA Publication

Description

[Professional Governance Standards](#)

Website

[CSBA District and County Office of Education Legal Services](#)

Website

[CSBA](#)

Cross References

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Description

[Vision](#)

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