

Bylaw 9200: Limits Of Board Member Authority

Status: ADOPTED

Original Adopted Date: 02/01/1994 | **Last Revised Date:** 05/01/2026 | **Last Reviewed Date:** 05/01/2026

CSBA NOTE: The following optional bylaw may be revised to reflect district practice.

The Governing Board recognizes that the Board is the unit of authority over the district and expects individual Board members to conduct themselves in accordance with Board Bylaw 9000 - Role of the Board and Board Bylaw 9005 - Governance Standards.

Unless agreed to by the Board as a whole, an individual Board member possesses no authority to direct staff, represent the Board or the district, or exercise administrative responsibility with respect to the schools.

Additionally, individual Board members do not have the authority to investigate, resolve, or otherwise actively engage with community members with respect to complaints, personnel or student matters, or legal issues. Any Board member who receives a communication regarding such a topic shall forward the communication to or otherwise inform the Superintendent or Board president, as appropriate, who shall respond or otherwise follow-up, as needed. The Board member shall not respond substantively to the communication beyond acknowledging receipt and explaining the limits of the Board member's authority. It shall be the responsibility of the Superintendent or Board president to inform the Board or place the topic on a future Board agenda.

Individual Board members are permitted to engage with community members, including responding to general inquiries or expressions of opinion. Such engagement shall be consistent with Board policies and bylaws such as Board Bylaw 9010 - Public Statements and Board Bylaw 9012 - Board Member Electronic Communications, and may not purport to represent the position of the Board.

Requests for information by an individual Board member shall be submitted to the Superintendent.

CSBA NOTE: Pursuant to Education Code 35292, the Governing Board is required to visit each district school at least once each term to examine the management, needs, and conditions of the schools or should ensure that the Superintendent or designee does so.

Additionally, pursuant to Education Code 51101, parents/guardians have the right to observe and/or volunteer in a school or classroom in accordance with law. Although this right is not affected upon election to the Board, Board members should be aware that district employees may view them as Board members even when visiting their child's school or classroom as a parent/guardian.

A Board member may observe and/or volunteer in a school or classroom, including in the school or classroom in which the Board member's child is enrolled, in accordance with Board Policy/Administrative Regulation 1240— Volunteer Assistance and Board Policy/Administrative Regulation 5020 - Parent Rights and Responsibilities. Prior to observing or volunteering, a Board member shall inform the Superintendent. Additionally, a Board member who is present on district property or at district programs or activities is expected to be aware of the role and limits on authority as a Board member.

A Board member who chooses to observe or volunteer shall do so in a manner that does not disrupt school operations. Any questions or concerns regarding operational or personnel matters shall be directed to the Superintendent or designee. Any questions or concerns specific to the Board member's child may be directed to appropriate site staff. If a question or concern is both specific to the Board member's child and involves operational or personnel matters, the Board member shall collaborate with the Superintendent or designee to determine whether the Board member shall direct the question or concern to site staff or whether the responsibility to investigate or resolve the question or concern, if necessary, lies with the Superintendent or designee.

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Status: ADOPTED

Original Adopted Date: 04/12/2017 | **Last Reviewed Date:** 04/12/2017

The Board of Education recognizes that the Board is the unit of authority over the district and that a Board member has no individual authority. Board members shall hold the education of students above any partisan principle, group interest, or personal interest.

Unless agreed to by the Board as a whole, individual members of the Board shall not exercise any administrative responsibility with respect to the schools or command the services of any school employee. Individual Board members shall submit requests for information to the Superintendent. Board members shall refer Board-related correspondence to the Superintendent for forwarding to the Board or for placement on the Board's agenda, as appropriate.

Individual Board members do not have the authority to resolve complaints. Any Board member approached directly by a person with a complaint should refer the complainant to the Superintendent or designee so that the problem may receive proper consideration and be handled through the appropriate district process.

A Board member whose child is attending a district school should be aware of his/her role as a Board member when interacting with district employees about his/her child. Because his/her position as a Board member may inhibit the performance of school personnel, the Board member should inform the Superintendent or designee before volunteering in his/her child's classroom.

The Superintendent or designee shall provide a copy of the state's open meeting laws (Brown Act) to each Board member and to anyone who is elected to the Board but has not yet assumed office.

Board members and persons elected to the Board who have not yet assumed office are responsible for complying with the requirements of the Brown Act. (Government Code 54952.1)
