

Board Bylaws

Code of Ethics

BB 9271

This Code of Ethics expresses the personal ideals which the Board of Education believes should guide the conduct and activities of each Board Member and the Board as a whole.

In all actions as a Board Member, the Board Member's first commitment and primary responsibility is to the well-being of the District's students.

Each Board Member is responsible to all residents of the District and not solely to those who elected the Board Member, nor solely to any organization to which the Board Member may belong, or which may have supported the Board Member's election. Further, the Board has major commitments to parents/guardians, employees, the state of California, laws pertaining to education and the policies of the District.

As an integral part of the Board Member's duties, the Board Member represents the authority and responsibility of government. This authority must be exercised with as much care and concern for the least influential as for the most influential member of the community

Each Board Member must be aware of, and comply with, the constitutions of California and the United States, the Education Code of the State of California, other laws applicable to the District, and District Policies and Board Bylaws.

Board Members should encourage increasing competence and professional growth of District employees.

Each Board Member shall participate in decisions pertaining to the District. As an elected representative of the people, Board Members can neither relinquish nor delegate this responsibility to any other individual or group, except as permitted by law.

Each Board Member recognizes that every individual Board Member has something to contribute to society and to the District.

Each Board member considers their position on the Board as a public trust that is not to be used for private advantage or personal gain. Board members are to govern responsibly and hold themselves to the highest standards of ethical conduct in alignment with that public trust.

Understanding and acting upon these premises, Board Members shall individually and collectively:

1. Value, support, and advocate for public education while keeping learning and achievement for students as the primary focus.
2. Communicate a common, unified vision while operating openly and effectively.
3. Take collective responsibility for the Board's performance and periodically evaluate the Board's effectiveness.
4. Be aware that individual Board Members have no legal authority except when acting as a member of the Board. Board Members shall present their concerns and concepts through the process of Board discussion. If in the minority of any decision, Board Members shall nonetheless abide by and support the majority decision. When in the majority, Board Members shall respect divergent opinions.
5. Encourage and respect different ideas and opinions from community members, employees, parents, and students, and endeavor to incorporate community views into the deliberations and decisions of the Board.
6. Devote sufficient time, thought, and study to proposed actions so as to be able to base decisions upon all available facts and vote in accordance with honest convictions, unswayed by partisan bias of any kind.
7. Remember that the basic functions of the Board are to establish the policies by which the District schools are administered, and to select the Superintendent and ratify or approve staff who will implement those policies, while also understanding the distinction between Board and staff roles and refraining from performing management functions that are staff responsibilities.
8. Promote and participate actively in a concerted program of timely exchange of information with District residents, parents, employees, and students.
9. Recognize that the deliberations of the Board in Closed Session may not be released or discussed in public unless required by law or the Board gives approval.



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10. Make use of opportunities to enlarge their potential as a Board Member through participation in educational conferences, workshops, and training sessions made available by local, state, and national agencies.
11. Govern and comply with all applicable Board Policies and Board Bylaws.
12. Conduct themselves in a civil and courteous manner towards other Board Members, District staff, parents, community members and students.
- 13.** Respect the role of the Board President in conducting Board meetings, not speak at Board meetings unless recognized, and only speak at Board meetings on matters pertaining to the current Agenda item.