

BB9005 Governance Standards
Board Bylaws

Status: ADOPTED
April 11, 2016

The County Board of Education believes that its primary responsibility is to act in the best interests of every student in every school or program operated by the county office of education (COE). The County Board has commitments to parents/guardians, all members of the community, COE employees, and the state of California. The County Board is bound by laws pertaining to public education and the established policies of the COE. To maximize County Board effectiveness and public confidence in its governance, County Board members are expected to govern responsibly and hold themselves to the highest standards of ethical conduct.

The County Board expects its members to work with each other and with the County Superintendent of Schools to ensure that a high-quality education is provided to all students in COE schools and programs and that high-quality services are provided to the community and to the school districts within the jurisdiction of the COE. Each individual County Board member shall:

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 County 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 of authority between the County Board and the County Superintendent, and refrain from performing management functions that are the responsibility of the County Superintendent and staff
8. Understand that authority rests with the County Board as a whole and not with individual County Board members

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

1. Keep focused on student learning and achievement, as well as the role of the COE in providing services to school districts and the community
2. Work collaboratively with the County Superintendent
3. Communicate a common vision

4. Operate openly, with trust and integrity
5. Govern in a dignified and professional manner, treating everyone with civility and respect
6. Govern within the law and County Board-adopted policies and procedures
7. Take collective responsibility for the County Board's performance
8. Periodically evaluate its own effectiveness
9. Ensure opportunities for the diverse range of views in the community to inform County Board deliberations

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

1040 Duties and responsibilities; county boards of education

1042 County boards; authority

35160-35160.1 Authority of county boards

GOVERNMENT CODE

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