

**PROFESSIONAL GOVERNANCE STANDARDS**

The County Board of Education believes its primary responsibility is to act in the best interests of the students of the county. The Board also has major commitments to school districts, 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.

**The Individual Trustee**

In California's public education system, a trustee is a person elected or appointed to serve on a board of education. Individual trustees bring unique skills, values and beliefs to their board. In order to govern effectively, individual trustees must work with each other and the county superintendent to ensure that a high quality education is provided to each student.

To be effective, an individual trustee:

- Keeps learning and achievement for all students as the primary focus
- Values, supports and advocates for public education
- Recognizes and respects differences of perspective and style on the board and among staff, students, parents and the community
- Acts with dignity, and understands the implications of demeanor and behavior
- Keeps confidential matters confidential
- Participates in professional development and commits the time and energy necessary to be an informed and effective leader
- Understands the distinctions between board and staff roles, and refrains from performing management functions that are the responsibility of the superintendent and staff
- Understands that authority rests with the board as a whole and not with individual board members

**The Board**

County offices of education are governed by a superintendent and board, not by individual board members. While understanding their separate governance roles, the board and superintendent work together as a team. This team assumes collective responsibility for building unity and creating a positive organizational culture in order to govern effectively.

To operate effectively, the board must have a unity of purpose and:

- Keep focused on student learning and achievement, as well as the role of the county office of education in providing services to school districts
- Work collaboratively with the county superintendent
- Communicate a common vision
- Operate openly, with trust and integrity
- Govern in a dignified and professional manner, treating everyone with civility and respect

- Govern within board-adopted policies and procedures
- Take collective responsibility for the board's performance
- Periodically evaluate its own effectiveness
- Ensure opportunities for the diverse range of views in the community to inform board deliberations

### The County Board's Jobs

The primary responsibilities of the county board are to work with the superintendent to establish the direction and priorities for the county office of education through its budgetary responsibilities, and to provide leadership to support the success of public education. To fulfill these responsibilities, there are a number of specific jobs that effective boards must carry out.

#### Effective county boards:

- Maintain a cooperative and supportive working relationship with local school districts and their school boards
- Collaborate with the county superintendent so that the shared vision, goals and policies of the county office of education can be implemented
- Adopt, evaluate and update policies consistent with law and the county board's vision and goals
- Maintain accountability for student learning by adopting curriculum and monitoring progress of students in schools operated by the county office of education
- Adopt the annual budget and interim reports of the county superintendent of schools
- Approve the salary of the county superintendent
- Review the real property audit and acquire or dispose of real property as necessary for county office of education schools
- Adopt policies to ensure that a safe and appropriate educational environment is provided for all its students
- Conduct student appeals on expulsion and interdistrict transfers
- Conduct public hearings when appropriate
- Provide community leadership on educational issues and advocate on behalf of students and public education at the local, state and federal levels

*cf Board Bylaw 9000, Role of the Board*

#### Legal Reference:

##### EDUCATION CODE

1040-1047 Duties and responsibilities of the county board of education

1830 Provision of audio and visual materials

1984 County board of education as school district (Community Schools)

17565-17592 Board duties re property maintenance and control

*33319.5 Implementation of authority of local agencies*

*35160-35161 Powers and duties*

*48645.2 County board administration and operation of juvenile court schools*

*48667 County office of education deemed school district (community day schools)*

*52301.5 Governing board of a regional occupational program*

*GOVERNMENT CODE*

*54950-54957.9 The Brown Act*