

**GOVERNANCE STANDARDS**

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. 2110 - Superintendent Responsibilities and Duties)*

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

*(cf. 9200 - Limits of Board Member Authority)*

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:

**GOVERNANCE STANDARDS** (continued)

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. 9310 - Board Policies)*

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)*

There is a basic concept of responsibility attached to service as a member of a Governing Board. Board members are individually and collectively trustees in fact as well as in name. They are trustees on behalf of the community and the state for the educational welfare of the community's children. More specifically, the "estate" which members of the Board hold "in trust" is: 1) The present welfare of children and community as may be enhanced by a program of public education; and 2) The future welfare of the community, state, and nation as the children in school today become the responsible adults of tomorrow.

There is no dollar sign attached to this kind of estate. The responsibility of this trusteeship is more far-reaching than that involved in the management of a more material type of estate.

In terms of concept, a Board is responsible to the community at large and also the State of California. This responsibility looms large, and it is one which can be filled best by persons of sound judgment, broad vision, dedication to the interests of education, and unselfish concern for the public welfare.

**GOVERNANCE STANDARDS** (continued)

As elected representatives of the public, Boards of Education are subject to close scrutiny in their daily interactions in schools and the community as well as at Board meetings. They are expected to be dignified, well-informed members, who are alert to the wishes of the community, use good judgment, and demonstrate insight and understanding in arriving at decisions. Freedom from prejudice, bias, or commitment to special interests is essential. In order to enhance public confidence in the total educational program, respect and cooperation shall be demonstrated in a Board's relationship with the Superintendent, the staff, and the community.

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.

The governance standards, which were adopted by the California School Board Association in November 2000, represent the expected behaviors of School Board members. The Poway Unified School District Board approved a resolution on January 16, 2001, adopting these standards. Individual trustees are expected to adhere to these standards during their tenure on the Board.

*Legal Reference: (see next page)*

EDUCATION CODE

35010 *Power of governing board to adopt rules for its own governance*

35160 *Board authority to act in any manner not conflicting with law*

35164 *Actions by majority vote*

GOVERNMENT CODE

1090 *Financial interest in contract*

1098 *Disclosure of confidential information*

1125-1129 *Incompatible activities*

54950-54963 *The Ralph M. Brown Act*

87300-87313 *Conflict of interest code*

*Management Resources:*

CSBA PUBLICATIONS

*CSBA Professional Governance Standards, 2000*

*Maximizing School Board Leadership: Boardsmanship, 1996*

WEB SITES

CSBA: <http://www.csba.org>

Bylaw  
adopted: August 9, 2018

**POWAY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
San Diego, California