

BOARD TRAINING

Orientation for Newly Elected or Appointed Board Members

The Superintendent or designee shall provide an opportunity for an orientation to newly elected or appointed Board members which includes comprehensive information regarding Board roles, policies, and procedures and the district's vision, mission, and goals, operations, and current challenges. Throughout their first term, Board members shall be encouraged to participate in additional educational opportunities designed to assist them in understanding the principles of effective governance, including, but not limited to, information on school finance and budgets, student achievement and assessment, labor relations, community relations, program evaluation, open meeting laws (the Brown Act), conflict of interest laws, and other topics necessary to govern effectively and in compliance with law.

Ongoing Board Training and Professional Development

Citizens elected to the Governing Board are entrusted with the responsibility of governing district schools. The Governing Board believes that the Board's ability to effectively and responsibly govern the district is essential to promoting student achievement, building positive community relations, and protecting the public interest in district schools. Board members shall be provided sufficient opportunities for professional development that helps them understand their responsibilities, stay abreast of new developments in education, and develop boardmanship skills.

Memberships

Board members may hold membership in, or otherwise become a member of, any national, state or local organization of governing boards of school districts or members thereof which has for its purposes the promotion and advancement of public education through research and investigation, and the cooperation with persons and associations whose interest and purposes are the betterment of the educational opportunities of the children of the state. All Board members are encouraged to continuously participate in advanced training offered by associations and organizations, reinforce boardmanship skills, and build knowledge related to key education issues. Such activities may include online courses, webinars, webcasts, and in-person attendance at workshops and conferences. In addition, workshops and consultations may be held within the district on issues that involve the entire governance team.

The Board looks upon such memberships as opportunities to provide:

1. Inservice education to Trustees from participation in meetings, conferences and clinics.
2. Access to the communication media of such associations, such as newsletters, periodicals and advisory services.
3. Representation in actions affecting education in general and the district in particular.

Conferences and Workshops

Board members may attend a conference or similar public gathering with other Board members and/or with the Superintendent or designee in order to develop common knowledge and understanding of an issue or engage in team-building exercises. In such cases, a majority of the Board members shall not discuss among themselves, other than as part of the scheduled program, business of a specified nature that is within the district's jurisdiction, so as not to violate the Brown Act's open meeting laws pursuant to Government Code 54952.2.

In selecting appropriate activities, the Board and/or individual Trustees shall consider activities that are aligned with the district's vision, mission, and goals and the needs of the Board or individual member to obtain specific knowledge and skills.

Board members shall report to the Board, orally or in writing, as soon as possible of the inservice activities they attend. Funds shall be budgeted annually for such memberships and for participation by Board members.

Legal Reference:

GOVERNMENT CODE

§54950-54963 The Ralph M. Brown Act, especially
§54952.2 Meeting

Management Resources:

CSBA PUBLICATIONS: Professional Governance Standards for School Boards

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

California County Boards of Education: <http://www.theccbe.org>

National School Boards Association: <http://www.nsba.org>

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