Public Statements

Adopted: 12/03/1991 **|** **Last Revised**: 09/05/2023 **|** **Last Reviewed**: 09/05/2023

The Board recognizes the responsibility of Board members in their role as community leaders to participate in public discourse on matters of civic or community interest, including those involving the district, and their right to freely express their personal views. However, to ensure communication of a consistent, unified message regarding district issues, Board members are expected to respect the authority of the Board to choose its representatives to communicate its positions and to abide by established protocols.

When speaking to community groups, the media, or other members of the public, individual Board members should recognize that their statements may be perceived as reflecting the views and positions of the Board. Board members have a responsibility to identify personal viewpoints as such and not as the viewpoint of the Board.

In addition, the Board encourages members who participate on social networking sites, blogs, or other discussion or informational sites to conduct themselves in a respectful, courteous, and professional manner and to model good behavior for district students and the community. Such electronic communications are subject to the same standards and protocols established for other forms of communication, and the disclosure requirements of the California Public Records Act may likewise apply to them.

All public statements authorized to be made on behalf of the Board shall be made by the Board president or, if appropriate, by the Superintendent or other designated representative.

Board spokespersons shall not disclose confidential information or information received in closed session except when authorized by a majority of the Board.

When speaking for the district, the Board encourages its spokespersons to exercise restraint and tact and to communicate the message in a manner that promotes public confidence in the Board's leadership.

Policy Reference Disclaimer:
These references are not intended to be part of the policy itself, nor do they indicate the basis or authority for the Board to enact this policy. Instead, they are provided as additional resources for those interested in the subject matter of the policy.

Legal References:

STATE
EDUCATION CODE
35010 Control of district; prescription and enforcement of rules
GOVERNMENT CODE
54960 Actions to stop or prevent violation of meeting provisions
54963 Unauthorized disclosure of confidential information
7920.000-7930.170 California Public Records Act
MANAGEMENT RESOURCES
WEBSITES
CSBA District and County Office of Education Legal Services https://legalservices.csba.org/#
CSBA http://www.csba.org/#

Policy Adopted:	12/03/1991
Revised:	02/18/1997
Revised:	09/05/2023