



## BYLAWS

### BOARD POLICY – GOVERNANCE STANDARDS

BP 9005

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 Santa Barbara County Education Office (SBCEO). The County Board has commitments to parents/guardians, all members of the community, SBCEO employees, and the state of California. The County Board is bound by laws pertaining to public education and the established policies of the SBCEO. 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 SBCEO schools and programs, and that high-quality services are provided to the school districts within the jurisdiction of the SBCEO. Each individual County Board member shall:

1. Keep learning and achievement, including college and career readiness and future-ready skills and development, 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 SBCEO 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

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**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.

**Management Resources**

California County Boards of Education  
Publication  
CSBA Publication

Website  
Website

**Description**

County Board Member Handbook: A Guide to Effective  
Governance, 2015  
Professional Governance Standards for County Boards, October  
2014  
CSBA  
California County Boards of Education

**State**

Ed. Code 1040  
Ed. Code 1042  
Ed. Code 35160-35160.1  
Gov. Code 1090  
Gov. Code 1098  
Gov. Code 1125-1129  
Gov. Code 54950-54963  
Gov. Code 87300-87313

**Description**

Duties and responsibilities; county boards of education  
County boards; authority  
Authority of county boards  
Financial interest in contract  
Disclosure of confidential information  
Incompatible activities  
The Ralph M. Brown Act  
Conflict of interest code

ADOPTED BY COUNTY BOARD:  
REVISED:

February 4, 2021  
May 8, 2025