

Fresno Unified Exhibit (E) 9000

Role of the Board

Definition

A "major decision" is defined as one that significantly influences the district's direction, resource allocation, and accountability to the community.

Major decisions for school boards typically include adopting policy and goals, approving the budget, hiring the superintendent, approving curriculum, and addressing major facilities or safety issues. These actions guide the district's direction, finances, and overall operation to ensure they align with community goals for student achievement. Examples include:

1. Policy Changes/Goals: Enacting or modifying district policies related to student discipline, teacher evaluations, or school safety. Decisions on how to involve parents, students, and the broader community in decision-making processes, especially in controversial matters.
2. Budget Allocation: Making decisions about how to allocate substantial financial resources, including funding for facilities, teacher salaries, and student services. Examples: LCAP Process
3. Hiring the Superintendent: Selecting the district's leader
4. Adoptions of New Curriculum/District Wide Technology: Deciding on the implementation of new educational programs, textbooks, or standards that affect all students across the district.
5. Facility Construction or Renovation: Approving large-scale projects, such as building new schools, renovating existing facilities, or addressing district-wide infrastructure needs.
6. Safety: Implementing significant districtwide safety or security policies

Criteria for Community Input

In alignment with the Board's adopted guardrail, when a major decision is anticipated to impact more than twenty-five (25%) of any affected group, the district shall gather community input. Examples of affected groups may include, but are not limited to elementary families, 7th grade sports, high school science teachers, etc. Quantitative methods, such as surveys, data analysis, community meetings, focus groups, advisory committees, will be used to assess and understand the potential impact.

While transparency and community input are core principles of school board governance, the board may deviate from standard input processes when legally required or when immediate action is necessary.

Exceptions

The board may bypass the usual community input process in limited circumstances:

- Legal and Confidential Matters:
 - Negotiations, student privacy issues, legal and litigation matters, personnel and employment issues
- Emergency Situations:
 - Threats to public safety, disruptions to school operations or facilities, health emergencies, environmental or natural disasters

Exhibit FRESNO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
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Policy Section: 9000 Bylaws