

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. Commit to attend and participate to the fullest extent at all required activities.
8. Understand the distinctions between Board and staff roles, and refrain from performing management functions that are the responsibility of the Superintendent and staff.

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(cf. 2120 – Superintendent Responsibilities and Duties)

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

(cf. 9200 - Members)

To fulfill the above responsibilities, the following specific jobs will be carried out:

1. Involve the community, parents, students and staff in developing a common vision for the district focused on learning and achievement and responsive to the needs of all students.
2. Adopt, evaluate and update policies consistent with the law and the district's vision and goals.
3. Maintain accountability for student learning by adopting the district curriculum and monitoring student progress.
4. Hire and support the superintendent so that the vision, goals and policies of the district can be implemented.
5. Conduct regular and timely evaluations of the superintendent based on the vision, goals and performance of the district, and ensure that the superintendent holds district personnel accountable.
6. Adopt a fiscally responsible budget based on the district's vision and goals, and regularly monitor the fiscal health of the district.
7. Ensure that a safe and appropriate educational environment is provided to all students.
8. Establish a framework for the district's collective bargaining process and adopt responsible agreements.
9. Provide community leadership on educational issues and advocate on behalf of students and public education at the local, state and federal levels.

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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:

1. Keep the district focused on learning and achievement for all students.
2. Communicate a common vision.

(cf. 0000 – Concepts and Roles)

(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. 9311 – Board Policies)

(cf. 9312 – Board Bylaws)

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)

As a corollary to the above board Governance Standards, the following Superintendent Governance Standards are included:

The Superintendent:

1. Promotes the success of all students and supports the efforts of the Board of Trustees to keep the district focused on learning and achievement.
2. Values, advocates and supports public education and all stakeholders.

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3. Recognizes and respects the differences of perspective and style on the board and among staff, students, parents and the community – and ensures that the diverse range of views inform board decisions.
4. Acts with dignity, treats everyone with civility and respect, and understands the implications of demeanor and behavior.
5. Serves as a model for the value of lifelong learning and supports the Board’s continuous professional development.
6. Works with the Board as a “governance team” and assures collective responsibility for building a unity of purpose, communicating a common vision and creating a positive organizational culture.
7. Recognizes that the board/superintendent governance relationships is supported by the management team in each district.
8. Understands the distinctions between board and staff roles, and respects the role of the Board as the representative of the community.
9. Understands that authority rests with the Board as a whole; provides guidance to the Board to assist in decision-making; and provides leadership based on the direction of the Board as a whole.
10. Communicates openly with trust and integrity including providing all members of the Board with equal access to information, and recognizing the importance of both responsive and anticipatory communications.
11. Accepts leadership responsibility and accountability for implementing the vision, goals and policies of the district.

Legal Reference:

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

GOVERNANCE STANDARDS

1190 – Financial interest in contract

1098 – Disclosure of confidential information

1125-1129 – Incompatible activities

54950-54962 – The Ralph M. Brown Act

87300-87313 – Conflict of interest code

CSBA PUBLICATIONS

CSBA Professional Governance Standards, 2000

Maximizing School Board Leadership: Boardsmanship, 1996

WEB SITES

CSBA: www.csba.org

GOVERNANCE STANDARDS

Bylaw

Adopted: June 12, 2007

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PASADENA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Pasadena, California