

VENTURA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

BOARD POLICY NO. 9005

ADOPTED: 05/20/02

CLASSIFICATION: Board Bylaws

REVISED: 10/23/23

SUBJECT: Governance Standards

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

1. Keep learning and achievement 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 staff roles, 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 VCOE 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 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

Legal References:

EDUCATION CODE

1040	Duties and responsibilities; county boards of education
1042	County boards; authority
35010	Control of district; prescription and enforcement of rules
35164	Actions by majority vote
1125-1129	Incompatible activities

GOVERNMENT CODE

1090	Financial interest in contract
1098	Disclosure of confidential information
54950-54963	The Ralph M. Brown Act
87300-87313	Conflict of Interest Code

Management Resources

CSBA Publication CSBA Professional Governance Standards, 2000