

Role of the Board

The County Board of Education has been elected by the community to provide leadership and citizen oversight of the district. The Board shall ensure that the County Office of Education is responsive to the values, beliefs, and priorities of the community. The Board shall work with the Superintendent to fulfill its major responsibilities, which include:

1. Setting the direction for the county through a process that involves the community, parents/guardians, students, and staff and is focused on student learning and achievement
2. Establishing an effective and efficient organizational structure by:
 - a. Employing the Superintendent and setting policy for hiring of other personnel
 - b. Overseeing the development and adoption of policies
 - c. Establishing academic expectations and adopting the curriculum and instructional materials
 - d. Establishing budget priorities and adopting the budget
 - e. Providing safe, adequate facilities that support instructional programs
 - f. Setting parameters for negotiations with employee organizations and ratifying collective bargaining agreements
3. Providing support to the Superintendent and staff as they carry out the Board's direction by:
 - a. Establishing and adhering to standards of responsible governance
 - b. Making decisions and providing resources that support district priorities and goals
 - c. Upholding Board policies
 - d. Being knowledgeable about district programs and efforts in order to serve as effective spokespersons
4. Ensuring accountability to the public for the performance of the district's schools by:
 - a. Evaluating the Superintendent and setting policy for the evaluation of other personnel
 - b. Monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of policies

- c. Serving as a judicial (hearing) and appeals body in accordance with law, Board policies, and negotiated agreements
 - d. Monitoring student achievement and program effectiveness and requiring program changes as necessary
 - e. Monitoring and adjusting district finances
 - f. Monitoring the collective bargaining process
5. Providing community leadership and advocacy on behalf of students, the district's educational program, and public education in order to build support within the local community and at the state and national levels

The Board is authorized to establish and finance any program or activity that is not in conflict with, inconsistent with, or preempted by law. (Education Code 35160)

The County Board of Education 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.

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
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
6. Participate in professional development and commit the time and energy necessary to be an informed and effective leader
7. Understand the distinctions between Board and staff roles, and refrain from performing management functions that are the responsibility of the Superintendent and staff

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

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
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
6. Take collective responsibility for the Board's performance
7. Periodically evaluate its own effectiveness
8. Ensure opportunities for the diverse range of views in the community to inform Board deliberations