

ORIENTATION

The County Board of Education recognizes the importance of providing all newly elected or appointed County Board members with support and information to enhance their effectiveness in the performance of the responsibilities of their office.

Within 90 days following their election or appointment, incoming County Board members shall be provided an orientation designed to build their knowledge of county office of education (COE) programs and an understanding of the responsibilities of their position. Such orientation may include the provision of information, support, and/or training related to County Board functions, policies, protocols, standards of conduct, and required reporting obligations, including the annual financial disclosure reporting (Form 700) pursuant to the Political Reform Act.

Upon their election or appointment, incoming County Board members shall be provided a copy of the Brown Act and informed that, pursuant to Government Code 54952.1, they must conform to the Act's requirements as if they had already assumed office.

Resources that may be useful for County Board members shall be identified for newly elected or appointed County Board members. Such resources may include, but are not limited to, County Board bylaws related to the limits of individual County Board member authority, the conduct of County Board meetings, and other County Board operations; governance standards for ethical conduct; legal requirements related to conflict of interest and prohibited political activity; protocols for speaking with COE staff, members of the public, and the media; and publications on effective governance practices.

In addition, incoming County Board members shall be provided specific background information regarding the COE, including, but not limited to, vision and goals statements, the local control and accountability plan and other comprehensive plans, student demographic data, student achievement data, COE policy manual, COE budget, and minutes of recent County Board meetings.

Incoming County Board members shall be provided information about trainings and professional development opportunities, available to them at COE expense, that address the needs of individual board members and the County Board as a whole, including, but not limited to, the California School Boards Association's Orientation for New Trustees, Institute for New and First-Term Board Members, and other such workshops and conferences.

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

1095 Membership in organizations

33360 Department of Education and statewide association of school district boards; annual workshops

33362-33363 Reimbursement of expenses; board member or member-elect

GOVERNMENT CODE

54950-54963 The Ralph M. Brown Act, especially:

54952.1 Member of a legislative body

54952.2 Open meeting laws; posting agenda; board actions

54952.7 Copies of Brown Act to board members