

Fresno Unified Board Bylaw (BB) 9005 Governance Standards

The primary responsibility of the Board of Education is to act in the best interests of every student in the District. The Board is also committed to representing parents, guardians, employees, and members of the community. The Board will comply with laws pertaining to public education and established Policies of the District. To maximize Board effectiveness and public confidence in District governance, Board members shall 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. Board members shall assume collective responsibility for building unity and creating a positive organizational culture. To govern effectively, the Board shall have a unity of purpose, and act with dignity.
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. Understand the distinctions between Board and staff roles, and refrain from performing management functions that are the responsibility of the Superintendent and staff.

(cf. 2122 - Superintendent of Schools: Responsibilities and Duties)

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

(cf. 9200 - Members)

9. Refrain from rude or abusive conduct, personal attacks, or verbal attacks upon the character or motives of other Board members, District employees, or members of the public.

10. Comply with all applicable laws, Board-adopted Policies and procedures, and Board Bylaws.

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 - Vision)
(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 all applicable laws and Board-adopted Policies and procedures, including Board Bylaws.

(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)

9. Maintain accountability through oversight and monitoring.

In order to maintain effective management and clarity of roles, individual Board members shall interact with District administration as follows:

1. Board members shall direct questions or requests for information to the Superintendent, Chief of Staff, or Designee. The requested information will be provided within 10 business days, absent of unforeseen circumstances. If the request is unable to be completed within the 10 business days, the Superintendent or Designee will communicate the need for additional time and rationale. If substantial staff time will be required to complete a particular project/task, the superintendent may bring the request to the board for discussion/approval to determine if time should be spent acting upon the Board member's request.

2. In recognition of the time constraints on the Superintendent, Board members acknowledge that the Superintendent will endeavor to equitably divide time among Board members. The Superintendent will be available to individual Board members at a minimum for monthly meetings. Board members will schedule meetings, in advance, to the maximum extent feasible. Except for limited emergency situations, Board members will avoid unscheduled drop-in meetings.

No individual meetings shall violate the Brown Act. The Board acknowledges that a discussion or decision outside of a scheduled Board meeting could result in a violation of the Brown Act.

3. Board members may not unilaterally schedule meetings purporting to represent the District in violation of generally accepted Board practices and policies. Board members shall not unilaterally attend internal staff meetings or meetings between administration and third parties unless invited by District or site administration, or authorized by the superintendent or by action of the Board.

4. When visiting a program or school site during school hours, Board members shall sign-in as a visitor and

identify themselves as a Board member.

Fresno Unified School District prohibits discrimination, harassment (including sexual harassment), intimidation, and bullying based on actual or perceived race, color, ethnicity, national origin, immigration status, ancestry, age (40 and above), religious creed, religion, political belief or affiliation, gender, gender identity, gender expression, genetic information, mental or physical disability, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, pregnancy or parental status, childbirth, breastfeeding/lactation status, medical condition, military and veteran status, or association with a person or a group with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics or any other basis protected by law or regulation, in its educational program(s) or employment.

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

1090 Financial interest in contract

1098 Disclosure of confidential information

1125-1129 Incompatible activities

54950-54963 Ralph M. Brown Act

87300-87313 Conflict of interest code Management Resources:

CSBA PUBLICATIONS

CSBA Professional Governance Standards, 2000

Maximizing School Board Leadership: Boardsmanship, 1996

WEB SITES

CSBA: www.csba.org

Bylaw FRESNO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Policy Section: 9000 Board Bylaws