

## Public Statements

The Governing Board recognizes the responsibility of Board members in their role as community leaders to participate in public discourse on matters of civic or community interest, including those involving the district, and their right to freely express their personal views. Board members are expected to respect the authority of the Board to choose its representatives to communicate its positions and to abide by established protocols.

All public statements authorized to be made on behalf of the Governing Board shall be made by the Board president or, if appropriate, by the Superintendent or designee at the direction of the Board president. No individual Board member shall make public statements in the name of the Board.

(cf. 2110 – Superintendent Responsibilities and Duties)  
(cf. 9121 – President)  
(cf. 9200 – Limits of Board Member Authority)

When speaking for the district, the Board encourages its spokespersons to exercise restraint and tact and to communicate the message in a manner that promotes public confidence in the Board's leadership.

No Board member shall disclose confidential information or information received in closed session except when authorized by a majority of the Board. Except or as specified in Government Code 54963 (e) 1-3.

(cf. 9005 – Governance Standards)  
(cf. 9011 - Disclosure of Confidential/Privileged Information)

When speaking to community groups, members of the public, or the media, individual Board members should recognize that their statements may be perceived as reflecting the views and positions of the Board. Board members have a responsibility to identify personal viewpoints as such and not as the viewpoint of the Board.

(cf. 1100 – Communications with the Public)  
(cf. 1112 – Media Relations)

In addition, the Board encourages members who participate on social networking sites, blogs, or other discussions or informational sites to conduct themselves in a respectful, courteous, and professional manner and to model good behavior for district students and the community. Such electronic communications are subject to the same standards and protocols established for other forms of communication, and the disclosure requirement of the California Public Records Act may likewise apply to them.

- (cf. 1113 – District and School Web Sites)
- (cf. 1114 – District-Sponsored Social Media)
- (cf. 1340 – Access to District Records)
- (cf. 9012 – Board Member Electronic Communications)

*Fresno Unified School District does not harass, intimidate, or discriminate on the basis of race, color, ethnicity, national origin, ancestry, age, creed, religion, political affiliation, gender, gender identity or expression or genetic information, mental or physical disability, sex, sexual orientation, parental or marital status, military veteran status, or any other basis protected by law or regulation, in its educational program(s) or employment.*

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

35010 Control of district; prescription and enforcement of rules

GOVERNMENT CODE

6250-6270 California Public Records Act

54960 Actions to stop or prevent violation of meeting provisions

54963 Confidential information in closed session

Bylaw FRESNO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

adopted: September 26, 1991 Fresno, California

reviewed: January 12, 2000

revised: June 1, 2016