

GOVERNANCE STANDARDS

The Solano 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 Solano County Office of Education (SCOE). The County 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 SCOE. 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 Solano County Board of Education 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 SCOE schools and/or programs, and that high-quality services are provided to school districts within the jurisdiction of the County Office and to the community. Each individual County Board Member shall:

- I. Keep learning and achievement for all students as the primary focus.
- II. Value, support, and advocate for public education.
- III. Recognize and respect differences of perspective and style on the County Board and among staff, students, parents/guardians, and the community.
- IV. Act with dignity, professionalism, and understand the implications of demeanor and behavior.
- V. Keep confidential matters confidential. Confidential/privileged information shall be released only to the extent authorized by law. For example, information and records pertaining to closed sessions, negotiations, and student records are confidential and are generally not subject to public disclosure. (See e.g., 20 USC 1232g [Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) of 1974]; Ed. Code § 49060-49079 [student records]; and Gov. Code § 54950-54963 [The Ralph M. Brown Act].) A County Board member shall not disclose confidential information acquired during a closed session to a person not entitled to receive such information, unless a majority of the County Board has authorized its disclosure. (Government Code § 54963) Confidentiality obligations are the same while teleconferencing as when meeting in person. Keeping confidential matters confidential includes, but is not limited to, maintaining a safe and secure working environment.
- VI. Participate in professional development and commit the time and energy necessary to be an informed and effective leader.
- VII. Understand the distinctions between County Board, County Superintendent, and staff roles, and refrain from performing management functions that are the responsibility of the County Superintendent and staff.
- VIII. Understand that authority rests with the County Board as a whole and not with individual County Board Members.

Violations of the adopted governance standards may result in private admonishment, public censure, or other actions, including but not limited to, appropriate legal action, by the Board.

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:

- I. Keep focused on student learning and achievement, as well as the role of the County Office in providing services to school districts and the community.
- II. Work collaboratively with the County Superintendent and fellow Board Members.
- III. Communicate a common vision.
- IV. Operate openly with trust, integrity, and professionalism.

SOLANO COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Policy 9005

- V. Govern in a dignified and professional manner treating everyone with civility and respect. The Solano County Office of Education defines “Civil behavior is polite, courteous, and reasonable behavior, which is respectful to others and includes integrity, honesty, acceptance, timeliness, dependability, observance of laws and rules, and effective communication.” The County Board shall model civil behavior as an example of behavior that is expected throughout SCOE.
- VI. Govern within County Board adopted policies and procedures.
- VII. Take collective responsibility for the County Board’s performance.
- VIII. Periodically evaluate its own effectiveness.
- IX. Ensure opportunities for the diverse range of views in the community to inform County Board deliberations.