

LIMITS OF BOARD MEMBER AUTHORITY

The Governing Board recognizes that the Board is the unit of authority over the district and that a Board member has no individual authority. Board members shall hold the education of students above any partisan principle, group interest, or personal interest.

Unless agreed to by the Board as a whole, individual members of the Board shall not exercise any administrative responsibility with respect to the schools or command the services of any school employee. Board members shall refer Board-related correspondence to the Superintendent for forwarding to the Board or for placement on the Board's agenda, as appropriate.

Individual Board members do not have the authority to resolve complaints. Any Board member approached directly by a person with a complaint should refer the complainant to the Superintendent or designee so that the problem may receive proper consideration and be handled through the appropriate district process.

Obligations of Board Members

1. Board members should hold the education of children and youth above any partisan principle, group interest, or personal interest.
2. Board members should understand their role and the programs offered by the district. They should study all agenda materials before the meeting, participate in the discussion of items which come before the Board, vote on motions and resolutions, and abstain only for compelling reasons.
3. Board members shall refer Board-related correspondence to the Superintendent or designee for forwarding to the Board or for placement on the Board's agenda.
4. Board members and persons elected to the Board are responsible for complying with the requirements of the state's open meeting laws.
5. The Superintendent or designee shall provide a copy of the Brown Act to each Board member and to anyone who is elected to the Board.

A Board member whose child is attending a district school should be aware of his/her role as a Board member when interacting with district employees about his/her child. Because his/her position as a Board member may inhibit the performance of school personnel, the Board member should inform the Superintendent or designee before volunteering in his/her child's classroom.

The Superintendent or designee shall provide a copy of the state's open meeting laws (Brown Act) to each Board member and to anyone who is elected to the Board but has not yet assumed office.

LIMITS OF BOARD MEMBER AUTHORITY (continued)

Board members and persons elected to the Board who have not yet assumed office are responsible for complying with the requirements of the Brown Act. (Government Code 54952.1)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

200-262.4 Prohibition of discrimination

7054 Use of district property

35010 Control of district; prescription and enforcement of rules

35100-35351 Governing boards, especially:

35160-35184 Powers and duties

35291 Rules

35292 Visits to schools (Board members)

51101 Rights of parents/guardians

GOVERNMENT CODE

54950-54962 The Ralph M. Brown Act, especially:

54952.1 Member of a legislative body of a local agency

54952.7 Copies of chapter to members of legislative body

Management Resources:

CSBA PUBLICATIONS

CSBA Professional Governance Standards, 2000

Maximizing School Board Leadership: Boardmanship, 1996

WEB SITES

CSBA: <http://www.csba.org>