

## ROLE OF THE BOARD

The Governing Board has been elected by the community to provide leadership and citizen oversight of the district. The Board shall ensure that the district is responsive to the values, beliefs, and priorities of the community.

The Governing Board's primary goal is to provide each student with an education of the highest quality in keeping with his/her capacity to learn. This goal shall be the basic factor motivating the Board's execution of its powers and duties.

The Board is responsible for the general control and direction of education in the district and is empowered to carry on and finance any program or activity that is not in conflict with, inconsistent with, or preempted by law. *(EC 35160)* This broad authority shall be exercised in accordance with the State and Federal Constitutions, laws and regulations. The Board may execute any powers delegated by law to it or to the district which it governs, and shall discharge any duty imposed by law upon it or upon the district which it governs. *(EC 35161)*

The Board shall work with the Superintendent to fulfill its major responsibilities, which include:

1. Setting the direction for the district through a process that involves the community, parents/guardians, students, and staff and is focused on student learning and achievement.
2. Establishing an effective and efficient organizational structure for the district by:
  - a. Employing the Superintendent and setting policy for hiring of other personnel;
  - b. Overseeing the development and adoption of policies;
  - c. Establishing academic expectations and adopting the curriculum and instructional materials;
  - d. Establishing budget priorities and adopting the budget;
  - e. Providing safe, adequate facilities that support the district's instructional program;
  - f. Setting parameters for negotiations with employee organizations and ratifying collective bargaining agreements.
3. Providing support to the Superintendent and staff as they carry out the Board's direction by:
  - a. Establishing and adhering to standards of responsible governance;
  - b. Making decisions and providing resources that support district priorities and goals;
  - c. Upholding Board policies;
  - d. Being knowledgeable about district programs and efforts in order to serve as effective spokespersons;
  - e. The Board shall prescribe rules for its own governance which are consistent with law or with the rules prescribed by the State Board of Education. *(EC 35010)*
  - f. The Board is authorized by law to delegate any of its powers and duties to a district officer or employee. The Superintendent shall be the chief executive officer of the Board. In accordance with Board policy, the Board delegates to the Superintendent the authority to carry out Board decisions and to make and carry out any decisions which it delegates. The Superintendent shall be fully responsible for the proper use of this authority. *(EC 35161)* The Board is ultimately responsible for the performance of any powers or duties delegated.

4. Ensuring accountability to the public for the performance of the district's schools by:
  - a. Evaluating the Superintendent and setting policy for the evaluation of other personnel;
  - b. Monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of policies;
  - c. Serving as a judicial (hearing) and appeals body in accordance with law, Board policies, and negotiated agreements. The Board believes that school employees and citizens have the right to a hearing and resolution of grievances, complaints and criticisms. In order to maintain positive personnel and public relations, the Board, convened, shall serve as a body of appeal for complaints and criticisms in accordance with Board policies and negotiated employee agreements.
  - d. Monitoring student achievement and program effectiveness and requiring program changes as necessary;
  - e. Monitoring and adjusting district finances. The Board is authorized to establish and finance any program or activity that is not in conflict with, inconsistent with, or preempted by law. (*EC 35160*)
  - f. Monitoring the collective bargaining process.
5. Providing community leadership and advocacy on behalf of students, the district's educational program, and public education in order to build support within the local community and at the state and national levels. The Board shall consider and approve or disapprove matters submitted to it by the Superintendent and the public.

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

5304	Duties of the governing board (re school district elections)
12400-12405	Authority to participate in federal programs
17565-17592	Board duties re property maintenance and control
33319.5	Implementation of authority of local agencies
35000	District name
35010	Control of district; prescription and enforcement of rules
35020-35046	Officers and agents
35100-35351	Governing boards
35160-35185	Powers and duties
35230-35240	Corrupt practices
35291	Rules

MANAGEMENT RESOURCES:

CBSA Publications

Professional Governance Standards, November 2000

National School Boards Association Publications

The Key Work of School Boards, 2000

Web Sites

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

National School Boards Association: <http://www.nsba.org>

ADOPTED: 8/24/77

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*(BP 1002 - Authority and Rights)*

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