

Bylaw 9310: Board Policies

Definitions

Board policies are the written rules of the district. They establish the parameters by which staff, students, parents/guardians, volunteers, contractors, visitors, and others shall abide while attending or participating in district programs or activities, on district property, or otherwise within the jurisdiction of the district. Additionally, Board policies clarify the roles and responsibilities of the Governing Board and Superintendent, and communicate Board philosophy and values to students, staff, parents/guardians, and the community.

Board bylaws are specific Board policies that govern the operations of the Board and establish the rights and obligations of Board members.

Administrative regulations, which shall not be inconsistent with Board policies, are written rules that implement Board policies or prescribe the operations and administration of the district. In case of conflict between an administrative regulation and a Board policy, the Board policy, or applicable portion thereof, shall prevail.

Board policies and administrative regulations shall align with the district's vision and goals, promote student learning and achievement, provide for consistent and fair treatment of students and staff, and proactively address equity and the provision of equal access to opportunities for all students.

The Governing Board recognizes the importance of maintaining Board policies and administrative regulations that are up to date and reflect the mandates of law. Board policies or administrative regulation shall be binding to the extent that they do not conflict with federal or state law and are consistent with the district's collective bargaining agreements. No Board policy or administrative regulation, or any portion thereof, shall be operative if the Superintendent determines, based on advice of district legal counsel, it is in conflict with applicable federal or state law or regulations or court decisions. However, any portion of a Board policy or administrative regulation so determined to be inoperative shall not affect the operability of other provisions of the Board policy or administrative regulation.

Board Policy Development and Adoption

The Governing Board shall regularly review Board policies and shall do so at Board meetings or Policy Committee meetings, as applicable. Additionally, the Governing Board shall annually review the policies specified in Education Code 35160.5. If no revisions are deemed necessary, the Board minutes for the applicable meeting shall nevertheless indicate that the review was

conducted. Other Board policies shall be monitored and reviewed as specified in the Board policy itself or as needed to reflect changes in law or district circumstances.

The following steps shall be used to develop, propose, and adopt a new Board policy or revisions to an existing Board policy:

1. The Governing Board and/or Superintendent or designee shall identify the need for a new or revised Board policy
2. As needed, the Superintendent or designee shall gather fiscal data, staff and public input, related Board policies or administrative regulations, sample Board policies from the California School Boards Association, legal advice, and other useful information and data
3. The Governing Board may agendize one or more discussions or presentations with respect to the need for a new or revised Board policy

As part of those discussions or presentations, the Governing Board may request additional information or research and may provide direction to the Superintendent or designee regarding how to proceed with proposing a new or revised Board policy, including a request for review by district legal counsel.

4. Once drafted, the proposed new or revised Board policy shall be agendized at two separate Board meetings, with the first for public input and Board review and direction, and the second for further discussion, if warranted, and Board action

The Governing Board may waive or modify any of the above requirements on a case-by-case basis.

All Board policies shall be formally adopted by a majority vote of the Governing Board.

Board policies shall become effective upon Board adoption or at a future date if so designated by the Board at the time of adoption.

At any time, the Governing Board and Superintendent or designee may determine that progress reports to the Governing Board on the implementation and/or effectiveness of a Board policy are necessary. If so, the Governing Board and Superintendent or designee shall agree upon a timeline and, as applicable, measures for evaluating the effectiveness of the Board policy in achieving its purpose.

Administrative Regulation Development and Approval

The Superintendent or designee shall be responsible for the development and approval of administrative regulations.

When new Board policies are created or existing Board policies are revised, the Superintendent or designee shall, as necessary, create or revise any applicable administrative regulations to ensure that they conform to the intent of the new or revised Board policy.

To carry out the intent of the Governing Board, the Superintendent or designee may, in addition to developing and approving administrative regulations, develop procedures manuals, handbooks, or other guides.

Access

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that all district employees and the public have easy and free access to all Board policies, administrative regulations, and, as applicable, related documents