

**LIMITS OF BOARD MEMBER AUTHORITY**

The Governing Board is the unit of authority over the District. It has broad, but clearly limited powers. The exercise of the Board's authority is restricted to the functions required or permitted by law, and only when it acts in a legally constituted meeting.

The Board member has no individual authority. Individually, the Board member may not commit the District to any policy, act or expenditure. The Board member shall abstain from voting on any issue or contract in which he/she may have an interest. The Board member represents and acts for the community as a whole and does not represent any factional segment of the community.

Members of the Board, by virtue of holding office, shall not exercise any administrative responsibility with respect to the schools or command the services of any school employee: classified, certificated or management. Employees shall be entitled to working conditions free of intrusion, unauthorized directives, harassment, or threat from a Member of the Board.

Individual Board members shall submit requests for information to the Superintendent. The Superintendent or designee shall provide materials and/or information that are readily available. If a request for information is deemed by the Superintendent as requiring significant effort or research, he/she may assign a priority to the item so that the preparation of the information does not significantly impact the operation of the District. At his/her discretion, the Superintendent may refer the request to the entire Board for consideration. If approved, the Superintendent or designee shall perform any necessary research associated with the request and report to the Board at a future meeting.

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.

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 shall not serve as a volunteer aide in his/her child's classroom without the approval of the Superintendent.

**OBLIGATIONS OF BOARD MEMBERS**

Board members shall hold the education of students above any partisan principle, group interest, or personal interest.

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 and vote on all motions and resolutions, abstaining only for compelling reasons.

**LIMITS OF BOARD MEMBER AUTHORITY** (continued)

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.

Board members and Board members-elect are responsible for complying with the requirements of the state's open meeting laws. The Superintendent or designee shall provide a copy of the Brown Act to each Board member and to anyone elected to serve on the Board of Education. (Government Code 54952.1)

The Board majority shall censure Board members who exert administrative authority outside the authority permitted by law. The District will conduct an in-depth investigation prior to any Board member censure.

**Policy Reference Disclaimer:** These references are not intended to be part of the policy itself, nor do they indicate the basis or authority for the board to enact this policy. Instead, they are provided as additional resources for those interested in the subject matter of the policy.

**State References**

Ed. Code 200-262.4

Ed. Code 35010

Ed. Code 35100-35351

Ed. Code 35160-35184

Ed. Code 35291

Ed. Code 35292

Ed. Code 51101

Ed. Code 7054

Gov. Code 54950-54963

Gov. Code 54952.1

Gov. Code 54952.7

**Description**

Educational equity; prohibition of discrimination on the basis of sex

Control of district; prescription and enforcement of rules

Governing Boards

Powers and duties

Rules (power of governing board)

Visits to schools (Board members)

Rights of parents/guardians

Use of district property, campaign purposes

The Ralph M. Brown Act

Member of a legislative body of a local agency

Copies of chapter to members of legislative body

**Management Resources References**

CSBA Publication

Website

**Description**

CSBA Professional Governance Standards, 2000

CSBA

**Cross References**

1160

1240

1312.1

1312.2

1312.2-E(1)

1312.3

1312.3-E(1)

1312.3-E(2)

1312.4

1312.4-E(1)

1312.4-E(2)

1340

5020

6020

**Description**

Political Processes

Volunteer Assistance

Complaints Concerning District Employees

Complaints Concerning Instructional Materials

Complaints Concerning Instructional Materials

Uniform Complaint Procedures

Uniform Complaint Procedures

Uniform Complaint Procedures

Williams Uniform Complaint Procedures

Williams Uniform Complaint Procedures

Williams Uniform Complaint Procedures

Access To District Records

Parent Rights And Responsibilities -

Parent Involvement

**LIMITS OF BOARD MEMBER AUTHORITY (continued)**

6159.1	Procedural Safeguards And Complaints For Special Education
9000-B	Role Of The Board
9005-B	Governance Standards
9010-B	Public Statements
9011-B	Disclosure Of Confidential/Privileged Information
9012-B	Board Member Electronic Communications
9124-B	Attorney
9140-B	Board Representatives
9230-B	Orientation
9270-B	Conflict Of Interest
9322-B	Agenda/Meeting Materials
9323-B	Meeting Conduct

Bylaw  
adopted: November 10, 2011  
Reviewed by the Board of Education:  
June 22, 2021 and July 20, 2021  
Bylaw  
Revised: August 10, 2021

EL RANCHO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT  
Pico Rivera, California