

BOARD PHILOSOPHY

Our Philosophy

We, the Monterey County Board of Education (County Board), shall do everything measured by the following standards:

- We shall make every decision in consideration of the children and the public schools that serve them.
- We shall be passionate in our commitment to excellence—excellence in education; excellence in teaching; excellence in administration; excellence in governance.
- We shall conduct ourselves with dignity and civility.
- We shall never allow political partisanship to shape our agenda.
- We shall continue to represent and serve all of our constituents—county schools, urban districts, suburban districts, rural districts, small districts.
- We shall embrace value and celebrate the diversity of our county's residents.
- We shall recognize that parents/guardians have a right and an obligation to participate in their child's schooling.
- We shall maintain a high level of communication, trust, respect and teamwork among County Board members and the County Superintendent of Schools (County Superintendent) that will contribute to effective decision making.
- We shall remain objective and adhere to due process in appeal hearings brought before the County Board.
- We shall resolve to support the Mission of the Monterey County Office of Education.

How We Function

In California's public education system, a County Board Member is a person elected or appointed to serve on a board of education. Individual County Board Members bring unique skills, values and beliefs to their board. In order to govern effectively, individual County Board Members must work with each other and the County Superintendent to ensure that a high quality education is provided to each student.

To be effective, an individual trustee:

- Keeps learning and achievement for all students as the primary focus.
- Values, supports and advocates for public education.
- Recognizes and respects differences of perspective and style on the board and among staff, students, parents, and the community.
- Acts with dignity, and understands the implications of demeanor and behavior.
- Keeps confidential matters confidential.
- Participates in professional development and commits the time and energy necessary to be an informed and effective leader.
- Understands the distinctions between County Board, County Superintendent and staff roles, and refrains from performing management functions that are the responsibility of the County Superintendent and staff.
- Understands that authority rests with the County Board as a whole and not with individual County Board members.

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

51002 Programs based on stated philosophy, goals, and objectives

51019 Definition of philosophy

Adopted: 03/19/08