

BOARD PHILOSOPHY

Our Philosophy

We, the Monterey County Board of Education, 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 Board members and the Superintendent that will contribute to effective decision making.
- We shall remain objective and adhere to due process in appeal hearings brought before the 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 of Education Member is a person elected or appointed to serve on a board of education. Individual Board Members bring unique skills, values and beliefs to their board. In order to govern effectively, individual Board Members must work with each

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other and the 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 board, superintendent and staff roles, and refrains from performing management functions that are the responsibility of the superintendent and staff.
- Understands that authority rests with the board as a whole and not with individual board members.

Adopted: March 19, 2008

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

51002 Programs based on stated philosophy, goals, and objectives

51019 Definition of philosophy