

**ORIENTATION**

The Governing Board recognizes the importance of providing all newly elected or appointed Board members with support and information to assist them in becoming effective members of the Board. Incoming Board members shall be provided an orientation designed to build their knowledge of the district and an understanding of the responsibilities of their position. Such orientation may include the provision of information, support, and/or training related to Board functions, policies, protocols, and standards of conduct.

*(cf. 9000 - Role of the Board)*

*(cf. 9220 - Governing Board Elections)*

*(cf. 9223 - Filling Vacancies)*

Upon their election or appointment, incoming Board members shall be provided a copy of the Brown Act and informed that, pursuant to Government Code 54952.1, they must conform to the Act's requirements as if they had already assumed office. Additional information for incoming Board members may include, but is not limited to, Board bylaws related to the limits of individual Board member authority, the conduct of Board meetings, and other Board operations; governance standards for ethical conduct; legal requirements related to conflict of interest and prohibited political activity; protocols for speaking with district staff, members of the public, and the media; and publications on effective governance practices.

*(cf. 1112 - Media Relations)*

*(cf. 1160 - Political Processes)*

*(cf. 9005 - Governance Standards)*

*(cf. 9010 - Public Statements)*

*(cf. 9011 - Disclosure of Confidential/Privileged Information)*

*(cf. 9012 - Board Member Electronic Communications)*

*(cf. 9200 - Limits of Board Member Authority)*

*(cf. 9270 - Conflict of Interest)*

*(cf. 9323 - Meeting Conduct)*

In addition, the Superintendent or designee shall provide incoming Board members with specific background information regarding the district, including, but not limited to, the district's vision and goals statements, local control and accountability plan and other comprehensive plans, student demographic data, student achievement data, district policy manual, district budget, and minutes of recent open Board meetings.

*(cf. 0000 - Vision)*

*(cf. 0200 - Goals for the School District)*

*(cf. 0400 - Comprehensive Plans)*

*(cf. 0460 - Local Control and Accountability Plan)*

The Superintendent or designee may offer incoming Board members a tour of district schools and facilities, and may introduce them to district and school site administrators and other staff.

**ORIENTATION** (continued)

(cf. 9240 - Board Training)  
(cf. 9320 - Meetings and Notices)

*Legal Reference:*

EDUCATION CODE

33360 Department of Education and statewide association of school district boards; annual workshops  
33362-33363 Reimbursement of expenses; board member or member-elect

GOVERNMENT CODE

54950-54963 The Ralph M. Brown Act, especially:  
54952.1 Member of a legislative body  
54952.2 Open meeting laws; posting agenda; board actions  
54952.7 Copies of Brown Act to board members

*Management Resources:*

CSBA PUBLICATIONS

Professional Governance Standards for School Boards  
The Brown Act: School Boards and Open Meeting Laws, rev. 2009

WEB SITES

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

Bylaw  
adopted: April 14, 1997  
revised: January 27, 2015  
revised: April 10, 2018

**VISALIA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
Visalia, California