

COMMUNICATION WITH THE PUBLIC

The Governing Board recognizes the district's responsibility to keep the public informed regarding the goals, programs, achievements, and needs of the schools and district and to be responsive to the concerns and interests of the community. The Superintendent or designee shall establish strategies for effective two-way communications between the district and the public and shall consult with the Board regarding the role of Board members as advocates for the district's students, programs, and policies.

(cf. 5020 - Parent Rights and Responsibilities)

(cf. 9000 - Role of the Board)

The Superintendent or designee shall utilize a variety of communications methods in order to provide the public with access to information. Such methods may include, but are not limited to, district and school newsletters, web sites, social networking pages or other online communications technologies, direct email communications, mailings, notices sent home with students, recorded telephone messages for parent/guardian information, community forums and public events, news releases, meetings with education reporters and editorial boards, presentations at parent organization meetings, and meetings with representatives of local governments, community organizations, and businesses.

(cf. 0510 - School Accountability Report Card)

(cf. 1020 - Youth Services)

(cf. 1113 - District and School Web Sites)

(cf. 1400 - Relations Between Other Governmental Agencies and the Schools)

(cf. 1700 - Relations Between Private Industry and the Schools)

In developing communications strategies, the Superintendent or designee shall take into account the needs of all members of the public, including individuals with disabilities and those whose primary language is not English.

(cf. 0410 - Nondiscrimination in District Programs and Activities)

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that staff members are responsive to requests by parents/guardians or members of the public for information or assistance.

The Superintendent or designee shall provide multiple opportunities for members of the public to give input on district and school issues and operations. Community members are encouraged to become involved in school activities, participate on district and school committees, provide input at Board meetings, submit suggestions to district staff, and use the district's complaint procedures as appropriate.

(cf. 1220 - Citizen Advisory Committees)

(cf. 1230 - School-Connected Organizations)

(cf. 1240 - Volunteer Assistance)

(cf. 1250 - Visitors/Outsiders)

(cf. 1260 - Educational Foundation)

(cf. 1312.1 - Complaints Concerning District Employees)

COMMUNICATION WITH THE PUBLIC (continued)

(cf. 1312.2 - *Complaints Concerning Instructional Materials*)
(cf. 1312.3 - *Uniform Complaint Procedures*)
(cf. 1312.4 - *Williams Uniform Complaint Procedures*)
(cf. 3555 - *Nutrition Program Compliance*)
(cf. 6020 - *Parent Involvement*)
(cf. 9322 - *Agenda/Meeting Materials*)
(cf. 9323 - *Meeting Conduct*)

Prohibition Against Mass Mailings at Public Expense

No newsletter or other mass mailing, as defined in Government Code 82041.5 and 2 CCR 18901, shall be sent by the district at public expense if such material aggrandizes one or more Board members. The name, signature, or photograph of a Board member may be included in such materials only as permitted by 2 CCR 18901. (Government Code 82041.5, 89001; 2 CCR 18901)

Any newsletter or mass mailing regarding ballot measures, candidates, legislative activities, or any other campaign activities shall be sent and distributed in accordance with law and Board policy.

(cf. 1160 - *Political Processes*)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

7054 *Use of district property or funds re: ballot measures and candidates*
35145.5 *Board meetings, public participation*
35172 *Promotional activities*
38130-38138 *Civic Center Act*
48980-48985 *Parental notifications*

GOVERNMENT CODE

54957.5 *Meeting agendas and materials*
82041.5 *Mass mailing*

89001 *Newsletter or mass mailing*

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 2

18901 *Mass mailings sent at public expense*
18901.1 *Campaign-related mailings sent at public expense*

CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS, TITLE 28

35.101-35.190 *Americans with Disabilities Act*

Management Resources:

WEB SITES

CSBA: <http://www.csba.org>
California School Public Relations Association: <http://www.calspra.org>
Fair Political Practices Commission: <http://www.fppc.ca.gov>

Policy
adopted: April 14, 1997
revised: August 9, 2011

VISALIA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
Visalia, California