

KERN COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

BOARD BYLAWS

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The County Board of Education shall adopt written policies to convey its expectations for actions that will be taken by the County Office of Education (COE), clarify roles and responsibilities of the County Board, and communicate County Board philosophy and positions to the students, staff, parents/guardians and the community.

The County Board recognizes the importance of maintaining a policy manual that is up to date and reflects the mandates of law. Policies shall be regularly reviewed at a time allocated for this purpose on the agenda of public County Board meetings.

Policy Development and Adoption Process

The County Board's policy development process shall include the following basic steps:

1. The County Board shall identify the need for a new policy or revision of an existing policy. The need may arise from a change in law, a new vision statement, new goals in the local control and accountability plan, educational research or trends, or a change in the superintendency or County Board membership. The need may also occur as a result of an incident that has arisen in the jurisdiction of the County Board or a recommendation or request from the County Superintendent of Schools, COE staff, or other interested persons,
2. As needed, the County Board shall gather fiscal data, input from the County Superintendent, COE staff, and the public, sample policies from other organizations or agencies, and other useful information and data to fully inform the County Board about issues relating to County Board policies.
3. The County Board may hold discussions during a public County Board meeting to gain an understanding of the issue. The discussion may include, but not be limited to, how the proposed policy may affect student learning, community expectations, and the COE, as well as the policy's fiscal impact and impact on governance and operational efficiency.
4. The County Board may request that legal counsel review the draft policy as appropriate.
5. The County Superintendent or designee shall develop and present a draft policy for a first reading at a public County Board meeting. At its second reading, the County Board may take action on the proposed policy. The

County Board may waive the second reading or may require an additional reading if necessary.

Only policies formally adopted by a majority vote of the County Board shall constitute official County Board policy.

The policy development process may be revised or expanded as needed based on the issue being considered, the need for more information, or to provide greater opportunities for consultation and public input.

Policies shall become effective upon adoption or at a future date designated by the County Board at the time of adoption.

The County Board shall adopt rules and regulations for its own government consistent with state law and regulations. (Education Code 1040)

Bylaws governing County Board operations may be developed, adopted, and amended following the same procedures as those used for the adoption or amendment of County Board policy.

Monitoring and Evaluation

At the time a policy is adopted, the County Board shall determine whether an evaluation of the policy should be scheduled and, if so, shall agree upon a timeline and measures for evaluating the effectiveness of the policy in achieving its purpose.

Access to Policies

A public copy of the policy manual shall be maintained at the COE either electronically or by paper copy.

As necessary, the County Board or County Superintendent shall determine the appropriate communications strategy to notify COE staff, parents/guardians, students, and other stakeholders whenever a policy that affects them is adopted or revised.

Suspension of Policies

No County Board policy, bylaw, or administrative regulation, or any portion thereof, shall be operative if it is in conflict with applicable federal or state law or regulations or court decisions. If any portion of a policy is found to be invalid, that invalidity shall not affect other provisions of the policy.

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

1015 Vote requirements

1040-1042 Duties and responsibilities of County Boards

35160-35160.2 Authority of governing boards