

ORIENTATION

Board Candidate Orientation

The Governing Board desires to provide Board candidates with orientation that will enable them to understand the responsibilities of Board membership. The Superintendent or designee shall provide all candidates with general information about school programs, district operations, and Board responsibilities. Orientation will be provided for Governing Board candidates so that, insofar as possible, new members will be prepared to discuss and cast informed votes on matters before the Board from the time that they are sworn in to office. The Board invites all candidates to attend public Board meetings during the period of their candidacy. The Superintendent shall cooperate impartially with all candidates in providing them with Board policies and public information about school programs.

The Board expects candidates to recognize that until they are elected to the Board, they are, like other members of the public, not entitled to privileged information discussed in closed session.

New Board Member Orientation

The Governing Board and the Superintendent or designee shall help each new member-elect to understand district operations and the Board's functions, policies and procedures as soon after election as possible. Incoming members may receive informational materials on the function of the Board and the school system, attend Board meetings, meet with the Superintendent or designee and Board president, receive a copy of the district's policy manual, and visit school facilities.

Incoming members shall be given a copy of the Brown Act and informed that they must conform to its requirements as if they had already assumed office. Such persons could meet in closed session with other members of the Board if that closed session were validly held under the Brown Act.

The incoming members may attend, at district expense, workshops for newly-elected members conducted by the state and/or California School Boards Association.

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

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| 33360 | Department of Education and statewide association of school district board, annual workshops |
| 33362 | Reimbursement of expenses; member of school district board |

GOVERNMENT CODE

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| 54950-54963 | The Ralph M. Brown Act, especially |
| 54952.1 | Member of a legislative body |
| 54952.7 | Copies of Brown Act to Board members |