



**Kern Community College District
Board Policy
Chapter 2 – Board of Trustees**

BP 2715 CODE OF ETHICS/STANDARDS OF PRACTICE

References:

WASC/ACCJC Accreditation Standard IV.C.11

Note: This policy is **legally advised**.

The Board of Trustees maintains high standards of ethical conduct for its members.

Members of the Board are responsible to:

Statement of Ethics

The members of the Board of Trustees shall comply with the ethical requirements of the State of California. In fulfilling their roles as members of the Board, they shall:

- Hold the educational welfare of the students of the District as their primary concern,
- Maintain confidentiality on District matters as appropriate,
- Base individual decisions on available facts, and uphold the final decisions of the Board,
- Take no action as a member of the Board for personal gain, and
- Conduct personal relationships with District staff and members of the community based on the fact that they have no legal authority outside the meetings of the Board.

The Board of Trustees will promptly address any violation by a Board member or Board members of the Code of Ethics in the following manner:

The District Chancellor and President of the Board of Trustees are authorized to consult with legal counsel when they become aware of or are informed about actual or perceived violations of pertinent laws and regulations, including but not limited to conflict of interest, open and public meetings, confidentiality of closed session information, and use of public resources. Violations of law may be referred to the District Attorney or Attorney General as provided for in law.

Violations of this policy will be addressed by the President of the Board, who will first discuss the violation with the Board member to reach a resolution. If resolution is not

achieved and further action is deemed necessary, the President of the Board may appoint an ad hoc committee to examine the matter and recommend further courses of action including recommended sanctions to the Board. Sanctions will be determined by the Board officers and may include a recommendation to the Governing Board to censure the Board member. If the President of the Board is perceived to have violated the code, the Vice President of the Board is authorized to pursue resolution.

- Standards of Good Practice
- In support of effective community college governance, the Board of Trustees believes that:
 - It derives its authority from the community and that it must always act as an advocate on behalf of the entire community.
 - It must clearly define and articulate its role.
 - It is responsible for creating and maintaining a spirit of true cooperation and a mutually supportive relationship with its CEO.
 - It always strives to differentiate between external and internal processes in the exercise of its authority.
 - Its Trustee members should engage in a regular and ongoing process of in- service training and continuous improvement.
 - Its Trustee members come to each meeting prepared and ready to debate issues fully and openly.
 - Its Trustee members vote their conscience and support the decision or policy made.
 - Its Trustee members use of appropriate channels of communication.
 - Its behavior, and that of its members exemplify ethical behavior and conduct that is above reproach.
 - Its Trustee members respect others; acting with civility.
 - Its Trustees remain informed about the District, educational issues, and responsibilities of trusteeship.
 - It endeavors to remain always accountable to the community; and
 - It honestly debates the issues affecting its community and speaks with one (1) voice once a decision or policy is made.
 - Its Trustees maintain confidentiality of closed sessions.

Also see BP 2200 titled Board Duties and Responsibilities.