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**GOVERNANCE STANDARDS**

The Board of Directors (Board) believes that its primary responsibility is to act in the best interests of every student in the school(s). The Board is also committed to parents/guardians, counties, communities, employees, the state of California, and the laws pertaining to public education, as well as established policies of the school(s). To maximize Board effectiveness and public confidence in Board governance, Board members are expected to govern responsibly and hold themselves to the highest standards of ethical conduct.

The Board expects its members to work with each other and the Executive Director to ensure that a high-quality education is provided to each student. Each individual Board member shall:

1. Keep learning and achievement for all students as the primary focus
2. Value, support and advocate for public education
3. Recognize and respect differences of perspective and style on the Board and among staff, students, parents, and the counties and communities it serves
4. Act with dignity, and understand the implications of demeanor and behavior
5. Keep confidential matters confidential
6. Participate in professional development and commit the time and energy necessary to be an informed and effective leader
7. Understand the distinctions between Board and staff roles, and refrain from performing management functions that are the responsibility of the Executive Director and other staff
8. Understand that authority rests with the Board as a whole and not with individuals

Board members shall also assume collective responsibility for building unity and creating a positive organizational culture. To operate effectively, the Board shall have a unity of purpose and:

1. Keep the the non-profit corporation focused on learning and achievement for all students
2. Communicate a common vision
3. Operate openly, with trust and integrity
4. Govern in a dignified and professional manner, treating everyone with civility and respect

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5. Govern within Board-adopted policies and procedures
6. Take collective responsibility for the Board's performance
7. Periodically evaluate its own effectiveness
8. Ensure opportunities for the diverse range of views in the students, staff, counties and communities it serves to inform Board deliberations