



Book	Board Policies
Section	CHAPTER 2: Board of Trustees
Title	Board Code of Ethics/Standards of Practice (Accreditation-Related)
Code	BP 2715
Status	Active
Adopted	November 29, 2023
Last Revised	November 29, 2023

**BP 2715****Board Code of Ethics/Standards of Practice**

References: Government Code Sections 8314 and 54952.2; Penal Code Section 424; ACCJC Accreditation Standard IV.C. 11

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

**Members of the San Mateo County Community College Board are responsible for the following:**

1. Acting only in the best interest of the entire community and adhering to District Policies and Procedures.
2. Protecting the interests of students in every decision and assuring the opportunity for high-quality education for every student.
3. Maintaining an atmosphere in which controversial issues will be debated openly and fairly, protecting the dignity of individuals. Respecting others; acting with civility.
4. Exercising authority only as a Board and conducting their relationships with college staff, students, local citizenry, and the media on that basis.
5. Ensuring public input into board deliberations; adhering to the law and spirit of the open meeting laws and regulations.
6. Maintaining confidentiality of closed sessions.
7. Preventing conflicts of interest or the appearance of conflicts of interest and informing the entire

Board or the Board President when a matter under consideration might involve such a conflict, as stated in the District's Conflict of Interest Code.

8. Using appropriate channels of communication, authority and responsibility.
9. Devoting adequate time to board work.
10. Being informed about the District, educational issues, and responsibilities to trusteeship.
11. Informing the District Chancellor about significant complaints and criticism received from the public even though no action is requested. In turn, the Board shall be kept informed of significant complaints and criticism by the District Chancellor.
12. Promoting a healthy working relationship with the Chancellor through supportive, open, and honest communication and regular evaluation.

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

1. The Board Officers and Chancellor are authorized to consult with legal counsel when they become aware of or are informed about actual or perceived violations of the Code of Ethics, 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. Potential violations of law may be referred by College legal counsel to the District Attorney or Attorney General as provided for in law.
2. Alleged violations of the Board's Code of Ethics/Standards of Practice BP 2715 will be addressed by the President of the Board, who together with the Vice President of the Board will first discuss the alleged violation with the Trustee to reach a determination of the potential existence of a violation. If it is determined that a potential violation of BP 2715 has occurred, the Board President will appoint an ad hoc committee to examine the matter and identify further courses of action to the Board. Sanctions, including censure of the Board Member, may be considered by the full Board. If either the Board President or Vice President is perceived to have violated the Code, they will be replaced with another Board member selected by the other unaffected Board officer authorized to pursue appropriate processes.
3. Consideration by the full Board of any and all actions under the Provisions of this Policy shall be in a formal and open meeting of the Board of Trustees, under an agenda item with appropriate and legal Notice, as required by State Law.

*See BP 2200 Board Duties and Responsibilities, BP 2310 Regular Meetings of the Board, BP 2315 Closed Sessions, BP/AP 2710 Conflict of Interest, AP 2712 Conflict of Interest Code, BP 2716 Board Political Activity, BP 2717 Personal Use of Public Resources – Board, BP 2740 Board Education, BP/AP 3050 Institutional Code of Ethics, and BP/AP 3410 Nondiscrimination.*

*(Replaces former SMCCCD BP 1.35)*

**Revised:** 3/12; 3/15