

**Rancho Santiago Community College District**  
**BOARD POLICY**  
Chapter 2  
Board of Trustees

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

**References:**

ACCJC Accreditation Standard 4.6  
Government Code Section 54956.3

The governing board functions effectively as a collective entity to promote the institution's values and mission and fulfill its fiduciary responsibilities. The governing board demonstrates an ability to self-govern in adherence to its bylaws and expectations for best practices in board governance.

All Rancho Santiago Community College District board members, including the student trustee, are committed to maintaining the highest standards of conduct and ethical behavior. The Board believes in promoting trust, confidence, and integrity in the working relationship between Trustees, administrators, faculty and staff. The Board and its individual Trustees are committed to the following:

- In all decisions the Board will consider the educational welfare and equality of opportunity of all students in the District.
- Trustees are elected to represent the interests and serve the needs of the entire District and to promote the mission of Rancho Santiago Community College District.
- Trustees are non-partisan elected officials and will always put District and college priorities before their own political or personal priorities.
- Trustees hold a public trust that requires and will ensure that their actions avoid conflicts of interest and any appearance of impropriety, including adherence to Board Policy 3821 Gift Ban Policy.
- Trustees will speak on behalf of the Board only when granted such authority by a majority of the Board.
- Trustees shall be respectful of others in any discussions related to the District and colleges.
- Trustees clearly articulate to the Chancellor the Board's expectations, will support the work and efforts of the Chancellor, and keep the Chancellor informed of matters related to the District and colleges.
- Trustees shall not disclose confidential information acquired in closed session or in confidential communications with the Chancellor and shall adhere to Board Policy 2315 and Government Code Section 54963.
- Trustees will uphold the letter and spirit of the Ralph M. Brown Act and make all official decisions and actions of the Board of Trustees in open and public meetings.
- Trustees will remain informed about the District, educational issues, and responsibilities of trusteeship, and will work in the best interest of the entire District.

The President of the Board, in consultation with the Chancellor, is 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, breach of 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 the board's policy code of ethics will be addressed by the President of the Board, who will first discuss the violation with the Trustee to reach a resolution. If resolution is not achieved and further action is deemed necessary, the President may appoint an ad hoc committee to examine the matter and recommend further courses of action to the Board. Sanctions will be determined by the Board officers and may include a recommendation to the Board to censure of the Trustee, remove the Trustee from a Board officer position or from Board committee assignments. If the President of the Board is perceived to have violated the code, the vice president of the Board is authorized to pursue resolution.

**Revised:** October 8, 2012 (Previously BP9002)  
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