

**IMPERIAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT
BP 2715 Code of Ethics/Standards of Practice**

Reference:

ACCJC Accreditation Standard IV.C.11

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

The primary responsibility of the Governing Board in our District is to ensure learning opportunities for students in an equitable manner. The Board is charged to carry out legal and ethical obligations. As a result, the members of the Board and the Board as a whole ascribe to the following tenets i

- Acting only in the best interests of the entire community;
- Ensuring public input into Board deliberations; adhering to the law and spirit of the open meeting laws and regulations;
- Preventing conflicts of interest and the perception of conflicts of interest;
- Exercising authority only as a Board;
- Using appropriate channels of communication;
- Respecting others; acting with civility;
- Being informed about the District, educational issues, and responsibilities of trusteeship;
- Devoting adequate time to Board work;
- Maintaining confidentiality of closed sessions.
- Referring complaints and/or criticisms through the appropriate channels as previously agreed upon by the CEO and the Board.

All Governing Board members are expected to maintain the highest standards of conduct and ethical behavior and to adhere to the Board's Code of Ethics. The Governing Board will be prepared to investigate the factual basis behind any charge or complaint of Board member misconduct. A Board member may be subject to a

- i. Refer the individual or group to the appropriate college process/person.
 - ii. Do not make any promises to the individual or group.
 - iii. Do not attempt to solve the problem.
 - iv. Inform the College President and receive clarification.
 - c. If the concern is urgent or could have policy implications:
 - i. Refer the individual or group to the appropriate college process/person.
 - ii. Do not make any promises to the individual or group.
 - iii. Do not attempt to solve the problem.
 - iv. Inform the College President and receive clarification.
 - v. The College President will alert the Board President.
 - vi. Board officers, with the College President, will decide how to handle the issue.
 - 1. May request written report.
 - 2. May place on the Board agenda for further discussion.
- 2. Protocol for Responding to Needs or Complaints Expressed in Board Meetings during Public Comment on non-agenda items:
 - a.

- a. The confidentiality of Closed Session creates a safe space for the candid discussion of appropriate topics.
- b. All participants in Closed Session are required to maintain the absolute confidentiality of Closed Session discussions.
- c. Any suspected breach of Closed Session confidentiality should be referred to the Board President.

BOARD NORMS

In public session:

1. Assume everyone means well.
2. Listen with an open mind; be open to new ideas; try it on.
3. Allow all opinions to be heard without interruption.
4. Demonstrate respect and support for one another.
5. Hold yourself accountable: be responsible; do your homework and follow through on assignments.
6. Approach issues professionally, not personally.
7. Seek consensus that is in the best interest of the District.

In closed session:

1. Assume everyone means well.
2. Listen with an open mind; be open to new ideas; try it on.
3. Allow all opinions to be heard without interruption.
4. Demonstrate respect and support for one another.
5. Hold yourself accountable: be responsible; do your homework and follow through on assignments.
6. Approach issues professionally, not personally.
7. Seek consensus that is in the best interest of the District.
8. Honor absolute confidentiality.
9. Create a safe space for open discussion and frank discussion.