



# BOARD POLICY

No. 2715

MENDOCINO - LAKE COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

## CODE OF ETHICS/STANDARDS OF PRACTICE

The Board maintains high standards of ethical conduct for its members. Members of the Board are responsible for:

- Acting only in the best interests of the entire community while maintaining independence from special interests or other politically-active, narrowly-focused groups.
- 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; and uphold the final majority decisions of the Board.
- Using appropriate channels of communication.
- Respecting others; acting with civility; work with fellow trustees in a spirit of cooperation so that all issues are debated openly and fairly.
- Being informed about the District, educational issues, and responsibilities of trusteeship.
- Devoting adequate time to Board work.
- Maintaining confidentiality of closed sessions.
- A trustee has no legal authority outside the meetings of the board, and conducts relationships with college staff, students, the local citizenry, and the media on that basis.

Violation of the Law and/or the Board's Code of Ethics:

The Superintendent/President and Board President 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 the Board's Policy 2715 (Code of Ethics) 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 Board 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 President (or committee) and may include a recommendation to the Board to censure the Board member. Censure is an official expression of disapproval passed by the Board. If the President of the Board is perceived to have violated the code, the Vice President of the Board is authorized to pursue resolution.

Reference: Accreditation Standard IV.C.11

*Adopted:* March 4, 1992  
*Revised:* April 5, 2000  
May 7, 2008  
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