

**CODE OF ETHICS**

*References: Accreditation Standard IV.C.11*

The Governing Board of Southwestern Community College District is committed to serving the educational needs of all residents of the District community and to carrying out its duties and responsibilities in accordance with the highest standards of ethical conduct.

District Policy and Procedure No. 2715, "Code of Ethics," together with District Policy No. 3015, "Institutional Code of Ethics," shall constitute the ethical standard for its members in both the conduct of policy and in its relationships with the administration, staff, students, and the District community.

Within this ethical context and the Board's obligation to the District's primary mission, each member of the Board is responsible to adhere to the standards of practice set forth below. The process for addressing alleged violations of this policy are set forth in District Procedure No. 2715.

1. Practice good citizenship in community and state affairs;
2. Accept the legal and ethical commitments and responsibilities of the Governing Board to residents of the District, to the staff, to the taxpayers, and, most important, to the students served;
3. Dedicate themselves to the highest ideals of honor and integrity in all public and personal relationships;
4. Not accept or solicit loans or gifts from employees of the Southwestern Community College District or their family members;
5. Recognize that a Governing Board member has no legal authority as an individual, – that decisions can be made only by a majority vote of the entire Board at a Board meeting, and that no individual Governing Board member has authority to direct staff or programs at the District;
6. Render all decisions regarding the issues at hand based on the available facts and independent judgment, and to refuse to surrender that judgment to any other individual or special interest group;
7. Be aware of the cultural and economic make-up, and the geographic distribution of the members of our community, and to make responsible decisions to meet the educational goals of a diverse population;

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8. Encourage the free expression of opinion by all Governing Board members and to seek systematic communications between the Board and students, staff and all elements of the community;
9. Abide by majority decisions of the Governing Board, while retaining the right to seek changes in decisions through ethical and constructive channels;
10. Keep confidential all information and discussions conducted during closed sessions of the Governing Board;
11. Bring direct and indirect credit to the District through personal effort in business, social, professional, and personal relationships;
12. Avoid any conflict of interest or the appearance of impropriety that could result because of their position as Governing Board members, and to not intentionally use Board membership, the goodwill or name of the College or District for personal gain or prestige;
13. Fulfill the responsibilities of their commission without regard to prejudice, provinciality, partisanship, or animosity;
14. Recognize that the District is a major employer and that the Governing Board's actions will affect the capacity of many people to practice the profession or trade in which they have so much personal investment;
15. Refrain from using District time, personnel, supplies, and equipment for non-District activities;
16. Work with other Governing Board members to establish effective Board policies and to delegate authority for the administration of the District to the Superintendent/President;
17. Ensure public input into Governing Board deliberations and adhere to the law and spirit of the open meeting laws and regulations;
18. Be informed and educated about the District, educational issues and the responsibilities of trusteeship and devote adequate time to perform the work of the Governing Board.