

SAMPLE Op/Ed II

SCHOOL BOARD OF EDUCATION EMBRACES NEW GOVERNANCE STANDARDS

Recently our _____ Board of Education voted to adopt new Professional Governance Standards developed by the California School Boards Association (CSBA). We welcomed the opportunity both to enhance our effectiveness as a board and to help the community gain a clear idea of the jobs that county boards of education perform.

The Professional Governance Standards provide a set of commonly agreed upon principles and practices for effective board governance that describe how effective boards work together and the jobs they carry out.

For example, each member of the _____ Board is elected as an individual to serve on the board. To be successful, we realize that we need to work together as a team with the superintendent in order to effectively govern the district. During the past years, we have worked hard to build a unity of purpose and focus on learning and achievement for *all* students in the district. We are committed to fulfilling the board's jobs, which are described in detail in the standards, and include maintaining a cooperative and supportive working relationship with staff and the community to set direction for the district, providing a structure to support the vision through policies, ensuring accountability and providing community leadership.

Never has it been so imperative that our public school system serves all children. We want to ensure that we are doing the best job we can as a governing board.

It is also crucial that staff, parents and the public understand the jobs that boards must carry out and the principles of effective governance. That's why we are proud to share these standards with you and welcome the opportunity to spread the word about the important work of school boards.

President _____
School District