

# SAMPLE Op/Ed II

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## COUNTY 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) and the California County Boards of Education (CCBE). 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 county office of education. 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 county board's jobs, which are described in detail in the standards, and include maintaining a cooperative and supportive working relationship with local school districts and their boards; collaborating with the county superintendent so that the shared vision, goals and policies of the county office of education can be implemented; maintaining accountability for student learning in schools and programs operated by the county office of education; adopting the annual budget; conducting appeals and public hearings; and providing community leadership on behalf of students.

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 county boards of education.

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President  
*County Board of Education*