



Board Policy
Chapter 2 – Governing Board

BP 2715 Code of Ethics/Standards of Practice

Reference:

2024 ACCJC Accreditation Standard 4.6

Each member of the Palomar Community College District Governing Board will perform their duties in accordance with the oath of office. Each member is committed to serving the educational needs of the citizens of the District.

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

- *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.*

The Governing Board will promptly address any violation by a Board member or Board members of the Code of Ethics in the following manner:

The Superintendent/President and Governing 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 Governing 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 Governing Board President may appoint an ad hoc committee composed of two Board members to examine the matter and recommend further courses of action to the Board. Sanctions will be determined by the Governing Board officers [or committee] and may include a recommendation to the Governing Board to censure the Board member. If the President of the Governing Board is perceived to have violated the code, the Vice President of the Governing Board is authorized to pursue resolution.

[Also see BP 2200 Board Duties and Responsibilities, BP 2310 Regular Meetings of the Governing Board, BP 2315 Closed Sessions, BP/AP 2710 Conflict of Interest, AP 2712 Conflict of Interest Code, BP 2716 Board Political Activity, BP 2717 Personal Use of Public Resources – Board, BP 2740 Board Education, BP/AP 3050 Institutional Code of Ethics, BP/AP 3410 Nondiscrimination, and BP/AP Prohibition of Harassment.](#)

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(Replaces former Palomar College Policy 89-13740 and all previous versions of BP 2715)