COUNTY BOARDS OF EDUCATION in California

The majority of California’s county offices of education are governed by a locally elected county board of education and operated by a locally elected county superintendent. County board members serve as a link between the community and the county office of education and its superintendent. CCBE serves county boards of education by providing resources that help board members and superintendents work as effective governance teams, and by advocating on behalf of the needs and realities of each county office.

THE PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITIES OF COUNTY BOARDS ARE:

- Adopt the annual budget and review interim reports of the County Superintendent of Schools
- Review the report of the annual audit provided for by the County Superintendent of Schools
- Conduct appeals on student expulsions and interdistrict transfers
- Fulfill statutory responsibilities in connection with charter schools
- Collaborate with the County Superintendent so that the shared vision, goals, and policies of the County Office of Education can be implemented
- Fix the salary of the County Superintendent
- Provide community leadership on educational issues and advocate on behalf of students and public education at the local, state, and federal levels

The County Board of Education may:
- Adopt rules and regulations governing the administration of the Office of the County Superintendent of Schools
- Review and approve the County Superintendent of Schools’ annual itemized estimate of anticipated revenue and expenditures
- Acquire, lease, lease-purchase, hold and convey real property for the purpose of housing the offices and services of the County Superintendent of Schools
- Fix the salary of the County Superintendent
- Provide community leadership on educational issues and advocate on behalf of students and public education at the local, state, and federal levels

PROGRAMS AND SERVICES GENERALLY OVERSEEN BY COUNTY OFFICES OF EDUCATION INCLUDE:
- Special education
- Community schools
- Juvenile court schools
- Regional occupational centers and programs
- Direct services to school districts
- Appeals of district actions related to student and school matters
- Charter schools

Because each county board has a large number of elected voters, board members can play an influential and powerful advocacy role to help meet the needs of COEs, public education and students throughout the state. Locally elected county superintendents and county boards of education are members of the community and are directly involved with their districts.
ADVOCACY EFFORTS
CCBE has 4 county members that serve on the CSBA Legislative Committee that reviews and takes positions on proposed state and federal legislation that affects county members and county offices of education.

POLICY SERVICES
CCBE in collaboration with CSBA, provides a series of sample board policies for use by county offices of education that reflect recent legislation, court decisions and educational trends. These sample policies are available through CSBA’s Gamut Online and are continuously updated throughout the year in a joint effort between CCBE members and CSBA.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES
CCBE offers specific training for newly elected and first-term county board members as well as continued professional development opportunities for veteran members. In addition, CCBE provides county board members with the opportunity to focus on specific county issues, leadership development and network with other county board members at its Annual Conference.

COMMUNICATIONS
CCBE provides its members with a County Perspective section in CSBA’s monthly California School News publication, CCBE website, and an electronic directory updated each spring containing contact information for CCBE, CSBA and CCSESA leadership and county office of education board members and superintendents of Directors, and CCSESA Board of Directors.

CCBE’S FALL CONFERENCE AND GENERAL MEETINGS
Provide board members with the opportunity to network with other county board members and share best practices to improve programs to ensure high levels of student achievement.