

## **Concept and Roles in Community Relations**

The Yolo County Board of Education ("County Board") recognizes that the community, defined broadly as the state and, specifically, as this county, determines the quantity and quality of educational services, programs, and facilities provided by the Yolo County Office of Education ("YCOE"). It is, therefore, imperative that members of the community, the members of the County Board, and the Yolo County Superintendent of Schools ("Superintendent") and staff of the YCOE cooperate in planning, policy development, implementation of programs and services, and in evaluation of the services and programs provided.

Community relations must be more than reporting and interpreting the activities of the YCOE and the County Board; they must be a broad set of relationships which will permit the YCOE to be of greatest use to the community in the roles which the County Board and YCOE are created to perform.

The Superintendent and the County Board recognize that their ability to fulfill the community's expectations for a high-quality educational program for all Yolo County schools depends on the level of support provided by the state and federal government, as well as the community. The Superintendent and the County Board shall therefore study legislative processes and issues, establish ongoing relationships with state and local leaders and the media, adopt positions on key issues, set priorities for advocacy, and collaborate with other organizations and coalitions in legislative and legal advocacy efforts.

### **Roles of County Board**

1. To represent the community's attitude toward the kinds of facilities and educational services to be provided by the county office and interpret these to the Superintendent.
2. Be cognizant of the educational and support programs of the YCOE and of the policies of the County Board, and be willing to interpret these personally to all interested citizens.
3. Consider communications and requests from citizens and refer them to the Superintendent and, when necessary, include such communication(s) and request(s) on agenda for action.
4. To serve as a final court of appeals in all matters referred by the Superintendent or appealed from the Superintendent's judgment should the County Board be empowered to hear such appeals.
5. To intercede for proper legislation in support of public education.

## **Roles of Superintendent**

1. To establish and direct the program for providing the citizens of the county and the constituent school districts with adequate information about the YCOE, its programs and services, the reasons for the activities, and the results obtained.
2. To serve as the major representative of the County Board to the public.
3. In cooperation with the board and staff members, represents the YCOE in the community by interpreting the county's educational services and programs to parents, organizations, the news media, and other community agencies.

## **Working Relationships of the County Board and Superintendent**

The County Board desires that public relations be a two-way operation—with information and interpretations of programs and services going to the community, and the needs, desires, and concerns of the community coming to the County Board and the Superintendent. The County Board views all aspects of public relations as of the highest importance.

The County Board and Superintendent recognize that schools are an important community resource and encourage community members to attend County Board meetings, participate in school activities, and take an active interest in issues that affect schools. The County Board and Superintendent shall keep community members well informed about needs and accomplishments of the YCOE.

### **Legal References:**

Education Code, 1260, 1262

**ADOPTED:** 09/24/84

**REVISED:** 01/25/93, 7/7/23