***Professional Governance Standards:*** *Sample Op/Ed I for districts*

School District Leaders Have a Crucial Job

Public oversight of local government is the foundation of American democracy. Nowhere is this more evident than in our public schools, where boards of education are entrusted by voters to ensure that each student is provided a high quality education. Since so much is at stake, the way boards do their job is critical. Their performance as a board impacts the attitudes and actions of staff, students, parents — and indeed our entire community.

The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Board recognizes that to maximize the public’s confidence in local government, we must govern responsibly and effectively.

In order to do that, all of us, including the public, must share an understanding about the responsibilities of school boards.

Individuals representing diverse viewpoints and experiences are elected to serve on school governing boards. Once elected, however, these individuals must work together with the superintendent to govern the district. That’s what boards do — they govern.

But governing is a difficult task. Recently the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Board of Education took a significant step toward enhancing our effectiveness by adopting Professional Governance Standards, developed by the California School Boards Association. The Professional Governance Standards represent consensus among hundreds of board members, superintendents and policy experts throughout the state as to the commonly agreed upon principles of effective school governance. These standards provide an important framework for governance that will help us to serve more effectively on behalf of all students in the district. Further, these governance standards provide a useful tool for parents and the community to assess how well we’re doing.

California now has rigorous standards for what we expect our students to know and be able to do; we feel it is important to model these high expectations by adopting standards of our own.

As the public asks more of students than ever before, the function of district and county boards has never been more crucial. No one can protect the diverse interests of the children in their communities better than local leaders — and nothing keeps the “public” in public schools better than publicly elected local leadership.

*President name  
School district*

***Professional Governance Standards:*** *Sample Op/Ed II for districts*

School Board of Education Embraces New Governance Standards

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 name  
School district*

***Professional Governance Standards:*** *Sample Op/Ed I for county offices of education*

County Board Leaders Have a Crucial Job

Public oversight of local government is the foundation of American democracy. Nowhere is this more evident than in our public schools, where boards of education are entrusted by voters to ensure that each student is provided a high quality education. Since so much is at stake, the way boards do their job is critical. Their performance as a board impacts the attitudes and actions of staff, students, parents — and indeed our entire community.

The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Board recognizes that to maximize the public’s confidence in local government, we must govern responsibly and effectively. In order to do that, all of us, including the public, must share an understanding about the responsibilities of county boards of education, and their relationship with local districts. Individuals representing diverse viewpoints and experiences are elected to serve on county boards. Once elected, however, these individuals must work together with the superintendent to govern the district. That’s what boards do — they govern.

But governing is a difficult task. Recently the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Board of Education took a significant step toward enhancing our effectiveness by adopting Professional Governance Standards for County Boards, developed by the California School Boards Association and the California County Boards of Education. The Professional Governance Standards represent consensus among hundreds of board members, superintendents and policy experts throughout the state as to the commonly agreed upon principles of effective school governance. These standards provide an important framework for governance that will help us to serve more effectively on behalf of all students and districts in the county. Further, these governance standards provide a useful tool for parents and the community to assess how well we’re doing.

California now has rigorous standards for what we expect our students to know and be able to do; we feel it is important to model these high expectations by adopting standards of our own.

As the public asks more of students than ever before, the function of district and county boards has never been more crucial. No one can protect the diverse interests of the children in their communities better than local leaders — and nothing keeps the “public” in public schools better than publicly elected local leadership.

*President name  
County board of education*

***Professional Governance Standards:*** *Sample Op/Ed II for county offices of education*

County Board of Education Embraces New Governance Standards

Recently our \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Board of Education voted to adopt 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 county. 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.

*President name  
County board of education*