

**Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC)**  
**Standards**  
**IV.C Governing Board**

1. The institution has a governing board that has authority over and responsibility for policies to assure the ***academic quality, integrity, and effectiveness*** of the student learning programs and services and the financial stability of the institution.
2. The governing board ***acts as a collective entity***. Once the board reaches a decision, all board members act in support of the decision.
3. The governing board adheres to a clearly defined policy for ***selecting and evaluating the CEO of the college and/or the district/system***.
4. The governing board is an ***independent, policy-making body*** that reflects the public interest in the institution's educational quality. It advocates for and defends the institution and protects it from ***undue influence or political pressure***.
5. The governing board ***establishes policies*** consistent with the college/district/system mission to ensure the quality, integrity, and improvement of student learning programs and services and the resources necessary to support them. The governing board has ***ultimate responsibility for educational quality, legal matters, and financial integrity and stability***.
6. The institution or the governing board publishes the ***board bylaws and policies*** specifying the board's size, duties, responsibilities, structure, and operating procedures.
7. The governing board ***acts in a manner consistent with its policies and bylaws***. The board ***regularly assesses its policies and bylaws*** for their effectiveness in fulfilling the college/district/system mission and revises them as necessary.
8. To ensure the institution is accomplishing its goals for student success, the governing board ***regularly reviews key indicators of student learning and achievement*** and institutional plans for improving academic quality.
9. The governing board has an ***ongoing training program for board development***, including new member orientation. It has a mechanism for providing for continuity of board membership and staggered terms of office.
10. Board policies and/or bylaws ***clearly establish a process for board evaluation***. The evaluation assesses the board's effectiveness in promoting and sustaining academic quality and institutional effectiveness. The governing board regularly evaluates its practices and performance, including full participation in board training, and makes public the results. The results are used to improve board performance, academic quality, and institutional effectiveness.

11. The governing board upholds a ***code of ethics and conflict of interest policy***, and individual board members adhere to the code. The board has a clearly defined policy for dealing with behavior that violates its code and implements it when necessary. A majority of the board members have no employment, family, ownership, or other personal financial interest in the institution. Board member interests are disclosed and do not interfere with the impartiality of governing body members or outweigh the greater duty to secure and ensure the academic and fiscal integrity of the institution.
12. The governing board ***delegates full responsibility and authority to the CEO*** to implement and administer board policies without board interference and holds the CEO accountable for the operation of the district/system or college, respectively.