

**CHAPTER 2: Administration and General Institution  
BOARD POLICY NO. 2.21 (BP 2715)**

**BOARD POLICY  
San Mateo County Community College District**

**Subject:** BP 2.21 Policy on Professional Ethics  
**Revision Date:** 2/12; 3/14  
**Policy References:** Government Code Section 8314; Penal Code Section 424; ACCJC Accreditation Standard IV.C.11

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All District employees shall adhere to the highest ethical standards in pursuing the College District's mission of providing quality educational programs and in managing resources efficiently and effectively. Ethical standards include but are not limited to commitment to the public good, accountability to the public, and commitment beyond the minimum requirements of the law. Each employee group has prepared a distinct Code of Professional Ethics for their respective constituencies, which, as a whole, comprise the Districtwide Policy on Ethical Behavior adopted by the Board.

No employee or consultant shall use or permit others to use public resources for personal use or any other purpose not authorized by law. "Incidental or minimal use," defined as use that will not result in additional cost to the District or interfere with the employee's job performance (i.e., occasional telephone call, private use of an envelope or paper, etc.), where lawful, is permitted.

1. The Board of Trustees, Administration and classified staff shall act in the best interests of students, the community and the District's mission over other competing interests and shall foster a work/study environment that values respect, fairness, and integrity and is positive, encouraging, and success-oriented. The College District has adopted policies and practices that protect the rights of individuals (Rules and Regulations 2.12); that protect individuals from unlawful discrimination (2.20) and sexual harassment (2.25); that prohibit the Board and employees from making or participating in making a decision in which they have a financial interest (1.35 and 2.45); and that provide for the support and development of each District employee (2.11).

The Board has also adopted policies ensuring public input into Board deliberations (1.45); adhering to the law and spirit of open meeting laws and regulations (1.40); exercising authority only as a Board (1.02); using appropriate channels of communication (1.35); and devoting adequate time to Board work and being informed about the District, educational issues and responsibilities of trusteeship (1.10).

Violations of the Board's Policy on Professional 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, the Board President may appoint an ad hoc committee, consult with legal counsel and/or refer the matter to the District Attorney to examine the matter and recommend further courses of action to the Board. Sanctions will be determined by the Board and may include censure of the Board member who is in violation of the policy. If the President of the Board is perceived to have violated the code, the Vice President of the Board is authorized to pursue resolution.

2. The faculty of the SMCCCD has developed a Code of Professional Ethics which can be found at: <http://www.smccd.edu/accounts/smccd/committees/academicsenate/ethics.php>
3. The Associated Student organizations of all three Colleges have developed a Code of Ethics which can be found at: <http://www.smccd.edu/accounts/smccd/ethics.shtml>