Bylaw 9270: Conflict Of Interest

Status: ADOPTED

Original Adopted Date: 08/24/2026 | **Last Reviewed Date:** 08/24/2026

The Board of Trustees desires to maintain the highest ethical standards and help ensure that decisions are made in the best interest of the California School of the Arts - San Gabriel Valley (CSArts-SGV) and the public. Accordingly, no "CSArts-SGV Official," defined as a Board member or position designated in CSArts-SGV's conflict of interest code, shall participate in the making of any decision for the school when the decision will or may be affected by CSArts-SGV Official's financial, family, or other personal interest or consideration, as defined by law.

Additionally, a Board member shall abstain from voting on personnel matters that uniquely affect the Board member's relatives. However, a Board member may vote on collective bargaining agreements and personnel matters that affect a class of employees to which the Board member's relative belongs. Relative means an adult who is related to the Board member by blood or affinity within the third degree, as determined by common law, or an individual in an adoptive relationship within the third degree. (Education Code 35107)

A relationship within the third degree includes an individual's parents, grandparents, great-grandparents, children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, brothers, sisters, aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, and the similar family of the individual's spouse/registered domestic partner, unless the individual is widowed or divorced.

Conflict of Interest Code

The Board shall adopt a conflict of interest code for CSArts-SGV that incorporates the provisions of 2 CCR 18730 by reference, delineates CSArts-SGV Officials, and provides the disclosure categories required for each position. The conflict of interest code shall be submitted to CSArts-SGV's code reviewing body for approval, in accordance with Government Code 87303 and within the deadline for submission established by the code reviewing body.

Upon direction by the code reviewing body, the Board shall review its conflict of interest code and submit any changes to the code reviewing body or, if no change is required, the Board shall submit a written statement to that effect. (Government Code 87306.5)

When a change in CSArts-SGV's conflict of interest code is necessitated due to changed circumstances, such as the creation of new CSArts-SGV Officials or changes to the duties of CSArts-SGV Officials, the Board shall amend the code, which shall then be submitted to the code reviewing body within 90 days after the changed circumstances necessitating the amendments have become apparent. (Government Code 87306)

When reviewing and preparing CSArts-SGV's conflict of interest code, the Principal or designee shall provide officers, employees, consultants, and members of the community adequate notice and a fair opportunity to present their views. (Government Code 87311)

Conflict of Interest under the Political Reform Act

A CSArts-SGV Official shall not make, participate in making, or in any way use or attempt to use an official position to influence a governmental decision in which the CSArts-SGV Official knows or has reason to know that there is a disqualifying conflict of interest. A disqualifying conflict of interest exists if the decision will have a "reasonably foreseeable material financial effect," which is distinguishable from the effect on the public generally, on the CSArts-SGV Official's immediate family, or any financial interest described in 2 CCR 18700. (Government Code 87100, 87101, 87103; 2 CCR 18700-18707)

A CSArts-SGV Official makes a governmental decision when, acting within the authority of the office or position, the CSArts-SGV Official authorizes or directs any action on a matter, votes or provides information or opinion on it, contacts or appears before other CSArts-SGV Officials for the purpose of affecting the decision, or takes any other action specified in 2 CCR 18704.

However, a CSArts-SGV Official is not prohibited from participating in the making of a contract in which the CSArts-SGV Official has a financial interest if such participation is required by the rule of necessity or legally required participation pursuant to Government Code 87101 and 2 CCR 18705.

Form 700

Each CSArts-SGV Official shall annually file a Statement of Economic Interest/Form 700 in accordance with the disclosure categories specified in the school's conflict of interest code. An individual who ceases to be a CSArts-SGV Official shall, within 30 days, file a revised statement covering the period of time between the closing date of the last required statement and the date the individual ceased to be a CSArts-SGV Official. (Government Code 87302)

Additional Requirements for Boards that Manage Public Investments

Any Board member, school employee, or school consultant who manages public investments, as defined by Government Code 87200, and who has a financial interest in a decision shall, upon identifying a conflict or potential conflict of interest and immediately prior to the consideration of the matter, do all of the following: (Government Code 87105; 2 CCR 18707)

1. Publicly identify each financial interest that gives rise to the conflict or potential conflict of interest in detail sufficient to be understood by the public, except that disclosure of the exact street address of a residence is not required

2. Not discuss or vote on the matter, or otherwise act in violation of Government Code 87100

   For a Board member, the Board member shall not be counted toward achieving a quorum while the item is discussed.

3. Leave the room until after the discussion, vote, and any other disposition of the matter is concluded

   However, the Board member, school employee, or school consultant who manages public investments, as defined by Government Code 87200, may speak on the issue during the time that the general public speaks on it. Additionally, for a Board member, if the matter has been placed on the consent calendar, the Board member shall abstain from voting on the consent calendar or, if the Board removes the item from the consent calendar, the Board member shall abstain from voting on the item. In any event, the Board member shall refrain from discussing or voting on the item. However, the Board member is not required to leave the room during consideration of the consent calendar.

4. If a decision is made during closed session, disclose the interest orally during the open session preceding the closed session

   This disclosure shall be limited to a declaration that the recusal is because of a conflict of interest pursuant to Government Code 87100. The Board member, school employee, or school consultant who manages public investments, as defined by Government Code 87200, shall not be present when the item is considered in closed session and shall not knowingly obtain or review a recording or any other nonpublic information regarding the decision.

Conflict of Interest under Government Code 1090 - Financial Interest in a Contract

A CSArts-SGV Official shall not be financially interested in any contract made by the school, including in the development, internal discussions, negotiations, modifications, planning, deliberation of issues, and specifications and solicitations for bids. If a CSArts-SGV Official has such a financial interest in a contract made by the school, the contract is void. (Government Code 1090)

Remote Interest Exception to Government Code 1090

A Board member shall not be considered to be financially interested in a contract in which there is only a "remote interest," as specified in Government Code 1091, if the interest is disclosed during a Board meeting and noted in the official Board minutes. The affected Board member shall not vote or debate on the matter or attempt to influence any other Board member to enter into the contract. (Government Code 1091)

Noninterest Exception to Government Code 1090

A CSArts-SGV Official shall not be considered to be financially interested in a contract if the interest is reimbursement for actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of official duties, in the employment of a spouse/registered domestic partner who has been a school employee for at least one year prior to the Board member's election or appointment, or in any other "noninterest" specified in Government Code 1091.5.

Common Law Doctrine Against Conflict of Interest

A CSArts-SGV Official shall abstain from any official action in which the CSArts-SGV Official's private or personal interest may conflict with official duties pursuant to the common law doctrine against conflict of interest.

Incompatible Offices and Activities

Board members shall not engage in any employment or activity or hold any office which is inconsistent with, incompatible with, in conflict with, or inimical to the Board member's duties as an officer of the school. (Government Code 1099, 1126)

Gifts

CSArts-SGV Officials may accept gifts only under the conditions and limitations specified in law including, but not limited to, Government Code 89503 and 2 CCR 18730.

Gifts of travel and related lodging and subsistence shall be subject to the current gift conditions and limitations, except when: (Government Code 89506)

1. The travel is in connection with a speech given by a CSArts-SGV Official, provided the lodging and subsistence expenses are limited to the day immediately preceding, the day of, and the day immediately following the speech and the travel is within the United States
2. The travel is provided by a person or agency specified in Government Code 89506, including a government, governmental agency or authority, bona fide public or private educational institution, as defined in Revenue and Taxation Code 203, or nonprofit organization exempt from taxation under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code

Gifts of travel exempted from the gift limitation, as described in Items #1 and 2 above, shall nevertheless be reportable on the recipient's Statement of Economic Interest/Form 700 as required by law.

A gift of travel does not include travel provided by the district for CSArts-SGV Officials. (Government Code 89506)

Honoraria

CSArts-SGV Officials shall not accept any honorarium, which is defined as any payment made in consideration for any speech given, article published, or attendance at any public or private conference, convention, meeting, social event, meal, or like gathering. (Government Code 89501, 89502)

The term honorarium does not include: (Government Code 89501)

1. Earned income for personal services customarily provided in connection with a bona fide business, trade, or profession, unless the sole or predominant activity of the business, trade, or profession is making speeches

2. Any honorarium which is not used and, within 30 days after receipt, is either returned to the donor or delivered to the school for donation into the general fund without being claimed as a deduction from income for tax purposes

Advice

Any CSArts-SGV Official, who, in good faith, believes that they may be subject to the requirements of this Bylaw and has questions, is unclear, or is unsure regarding the application of the requirements of this Bylaw to any particular instance or situation, may seek advice from the school's legal counsel with the permission of the Principal, Board President, or majority of the Board.

Training

Unless a Board member's term expires prior to January 1, 2026, each Board member shall complete ethics training in accordance with Government Code 53234-53235.2 by January 1, 2026, and at least once every two years thereafter as specified in Board Bylaw 9240 - Board Training.

Policy Reference Disclaimer: These references are not intended to be part of the policy itself, nor do they indicate the basis or authority for the Governing Board to enact this policy. Instead, they are provided as additional resources for those interested in the subject matter of the policy.

State	Description
2 CCR 18110-18997	Regulations of the Fair Political Practices Commission
2 CCR 18438.1-18438.8	Campaign contribution-based conflicts of interest
2 CCR 18700-18760	Conflicts of Interest
2 CCR 18722-18740	Disclosure of interests
2 CCR 18753-18756	Conflict of interest codes
2 CCR 18940.2	Gift limit amount
Ed. Code 1006	Prohibition against school district employees serving on county board of education
Ed. Code 35107	School district employees
Ed. Code 35230-35240	Corrupt practices
Ed. Code 35233	Prohibitions applicable to members of governing boards
Ed. Code 41000-41003	Moneys received by school districts
Ed. Code 41015	Investments
Fam. Code 297.5	Rights, protections, and benefits of registered domestic partners
Gov. Code 1090-1099	Prohibitions applicable to specified officers
Gov. Code 1125-1129	Incompatible activities
Gov. Code 53234-53235.2	Ethics training
Gov. Code 81000-91014	Political Reform Act
Gov. Code 82011	Code reviewing body
Gov. Code 82019	Definition; designated employee
Gov. Code 82028	Definition; gift
Gov. Code 82030	Definition; income
Gov. Code 82033	Definition; interest in real property
Gov. Code 82034	Definition; investment
Gov. Code 84308	Campaign disclosure
Gov. Code 87100-87505	Political Reform Act; conflict of interest

State	Description
Gov. Code 89501-89503	Honoraria and gifts
Gov. Code 89506	Ethics; travel
Gov. Code 91000-91014	Enforcement
Pen. Code 85-88	Bribes
Pub. Cont. Code 6102	Bribery of public official; voidable contract
Rev. & Tax Code 203	Taxable and exempt property - colleges

Management Resources	Description
Attorney General Opinion	105 Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen.69 (2022)
Attorney General Opinion	63 Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen. 868 (1980)
Attorney General Opinion	65 Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen. 606 (1982)
Attorney General Opinion	68 Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen. 171 (1985)
Attorney General Opinion	69 Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen. 255 (1986)
Attorney General Opinion	80 Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen. 320 (1997)
Attorney General Opinion	81 Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen. 327 (1998)
Attorney General Opinion	82 Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen. 83 (1999)
Attorney General Opinion	85 Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen. 60 (2002)
Attorney General Opinion	86 Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen. 138(2003)
Attorney General Opinion	89 Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen. 217 (2006)
Attorney General Opinion	92 Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen. 19 (2009)
Attorney General Opinion	92 Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen. 26 (2009)
Court Decision	Davis v. Fresno Unified School District (2015) 237 Cal.App.4th 261
Court Decision	Klistoff v. Superior Court (2007) 157 Cal.App.4th 469
Court Decision	Kunec v. Brea Redevelopment Agency (1997) 55 Cal.App.4th 511
Court Decision	McGee v. Balfour Beatty Construction, LLC, et al. (2016) 247 Cal. App. 4th 235
Court Decision	Thorpe v. Long Beach Community College District (2000) 83 Cal.App.4th 655
CSBA Publication	Conflict of Interest: Overview of Key Issues for Governing Board Members, Fact Sheet, July 2010
Fair Political Practices Commission Publication	Advice Letter: A-96-314 (December 18, 1996)
Fair Political Practices Commission Publication	Can I Vote? A Basic Overview of Public Officials' Obligations Under the Conflict-of-Interest Rules, 2005
Institute For Local Government Publication	Understanding the Basics of Public Service Ethics: Personal Financial Gain Laws, 2009
Institute for Local Government Publication	Understanding the Basics of Public Service Ethics: Transparency Laws, 2009
Website	CSBA District and County Office of Education Legal Services
Website	Institute for Local Government

Management Resources	Description
Website	Fair Political Practices Commission
Website	CSBA

Cross References	Description
9000	Role Of The Board