1.4 ETHICS AND CONFLICT OF INTEREST

[Government Code Sections 1090 et seq.; 1126; 87200 et seq.; Title 2, Sections 18730 et seq.; Accreditation Standard IV.B.1.a, e, & h]

1.4.1 Ethics Statement

The Governing Board of the Chaffey Community College District expects its members to adhere to the highest standards of conduct. Acting in a manner to merit the trust and confidence of the public and those it serves, the Board accepts its responsibility of "trusteeship." Foremost in its declaration is the Governing Board's pledge to discharge faithfully the duties of its office regardless of personal considerations, recognizing that the public interest must be its primary concern. Furthermore, the measure of the Governing Board's seriousness in adopting a code of ethics is its intent to evaluate its performance against its code of ethics.

1.4.2 Conflict of Interest/Principles

The trustees of the Chaffey Community College District hereby adopt the following principles:

A. Acting as a whole. The Board recognizes that individual trustees have no legal authority and that decisions are made by majority vote at officially designated Board meetings.

B. Managing conflicts of interest. The Board shall abstain from conflicts of interest in economic or employment relationships with the district.

C. Handling special interest groups. The Board encourages expression by special interest groups, which shall be considered before rendering its decision. All decisions shall be in the best interest of the district.

D. Using appropriate channels. The Board shall adhere to established policies and procedures. Members of the Board shall not communicate among themselves by the use of any form of communication (e.g., personal intermediaries, e-mail, or other technological device) in order to reach a collective concurrence regarding any item that is within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Board. In addition, no other person shall make serial communications to Board members. The Board shall communicate through the superintendent/president or designee. Students, faculty and staff members shall be referred to appropriate internal channels [Government Code Section 54952.2].
E. *Maintaining appropriate conduct at Board meetings.* The Board shall work in a spirit of harmony and consideration in spite of individual differences with other Board members, staff, students, and members of the community.

F. *Exercising authority as trustees.* The Board shall uphold the ethical, financial, and legal commitments and responsibilities of the district to the state, the residents of the district, the staff it employs, and the students it serves.

G. *Handling of administrative matters.* The Board exercises authority as trustees, which includes delegating authority to the superintendent/president to implement policies and to keep the Board informed.

H. *Monitoring compensation and expense accounts.* The Board shall exercise diligence in monitoring expenditures and income and expense accounts, including its own.

I. Violations of Board Policy 1.4, Ethics and Conflict of Interest, by a Governing Board member may be cause for thorough and fair review by the Board. The Board president will first discuss the alleged violation with the member. If the violation cannot be resolved in this manner, the Board will constitute an ad hoc ethics committee consisting of one member appointed by the Board president and one by the Board vice president, neither appointee to be the president or vice president. The committee will initiate a thorough, fact-finding process regarding the complaint, including an interview with the member in question, and report its findings and recommendations to the Board. The Board will then consider the committee’s findings. If the Board determines that the member has not violated Board Policy 1.4, Ethics and Conflict of Interest, the process will conclude. If the Board determines that a violation has occurred, the Board may sanction the member in a manner it deems appropriate.

1.4.3 Financial Interest

No member of the Governing Board shall make, participate in making, or in any way attempt to use her/his official position to influence a governmental decision in which the member knows, or has reason to know, that she/he has a financial interest.
1.4.4 Disclosure of Assets and Income

The Chaffey Community College District shall provide administrative regulations to provide for disclosure of assets and income of Governing Board members who may be materially affected by their official actions and provide for the disqualification of Governing Board members from making or participating in the making of governmental decisions which may foreseeably have a material effect on their financial interest [Political Reform Act of 1974, Government Code Sections 87100 et seq.]