

Association of California County Boards of Education (ACCBE)

Advocacy Committee Charge

Statement of Purpose:

The Advocacy Committee (AC) of the Association of California County Boards of Education (ACCBE) is dedicated to advocating for policies and legislation that support and strengthen the role of county boards of education in advancing high-quality, equitable public education throughout California. The committee informs and supports the work of the ACCBE Board to ensure that county boards are informed, engaged, and empowered to influence policy decisions that impact students, schools, and communities. Under the direction of the ACCBE Board of Directors, the AC monitors legislative developments, engages with policymakers, and fosters collaboration among education stakeholders. The AC upholds ACCBE's commitment to promoting local governance, student-centered equity-based policies, and the effective delivery of countywide educational programs and services.

Committee Operations:

- **Meetings & Membership:** The committee convenes regularly, typically on a monthly or quarterly basis, depending on the legislative cycle. Members are appointed annually by the President, subject to ratification by the ACCBE Board of Directors. Membership will include current ACCBE board members, representatives from county boards of education who are members of ACCBE, representatives from ACCBE members who also are members of CSBA's Region 14, at least one small rural county board member, and other stakeholders with expertise in education policy and advocacy.
- **Legislative & Policy Monitoring:** The committee tracks proposed legislation, regulatory changes, and emerging policy trends that affect county boards of education and the students they serve.
- **Legislative Engagement:** The committee supports members' engagement with legislators, state agencies, and other key decision-makers through direct advocacy, public testimony, position letters, and participation in legislative hearings and events. The committee provides materials and tips for members to do outreach to their legislators to build relationships, and ensure they know what county boards and county offices do and who we serve.
- **Stakeholder Education & Communication:** The committee informs the ACCBE board of directors about key legislative and policy issues, providing timely updates,

analysis, and action recommendations to support informed decision-making. The committee uses surveys, member updates, ACCBE county board appointed liaisons, legislative forums, to seek input from members on policy and legislative priorities and issues; and supports ACCBE member updates about positions on policies and legislation. The committee organizes legislative forums with policy and content experts to educate our members about critical policy and legislative issues that will impact the at promise students we serve and the educational ecosystem that serves all students in our state.

- **Coalition Building:** The committee collaborates with education organizations, including CSBA Region 14, advocacy groups, and community partners to strengthen collective advocacy efforts in support of county boards of education and the students we serve.
- **Develops Annual Advocacy Agenda:** The committee advises the ACCBE Board of Directors on legislative positions, recommending advocacy actions and official positions on relevant policies. The committee proposes an annual advocacy agenda aligned with ACCBE's priorities, outlining key advocacy goals and strategies to support the work of county boards of education. The ACCBE board of directors approves formal ACCBE policy positions and the annual advocacy agenda.
- Through its work, the Advocacy Committee ensures that ACCBE remains a strong and effective voice in shaping California's education policies, protecting local governance, and advancing educational opportunities for all students served by county offices of education.