

**FILLING VACANCIES****Events Causing a Vacancy**

A vacancy on the Governing Board may arise from any of the following events:

1. The death of an incumbent (Government Code 1770)
2. The adjudication pursuant to a quo warranto proceeding declaring that an incumbent is physically or mentally incapacitated due to disease, illness, or accident and that there is reasonable cause to believe that the incumbent will not be able to perform the duties of the office for the remainder of the term (Government Code 1770)
3. A Board member's resignation (Government Code 1770)

A vacancy resulting from resignation occurs when the written resignation is filed with the County Superintendent of Schools having jurisdiction over the district, except where a deferred effective date is specified in the resignation so filed, in which case the resignation shall become operative on that date. A Board member may not defer an effective date of resignation for more than 60 days after the date the resignation is filed with the County Superintendent. Upon being filed with the County Superintendent, a written resignation, whether specifying a deferred effective date or otherwise, shall be irrevocable. (Education Code 5090, 5091)

4. A Board member's removal from office-by recall (Elections Code 11384; Government Code 1770)
5. A Board member's ceasing to be a resident of the district (Government Code 1770)
6. A Board member ceases to inhabit the trustee area represented on the Board. (58 Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen. 888 (1975))
7. A Board member's absence from the state for more than 60 days, except in the following situations: (Government Code 1064, 1770)
  - a. Upon district business with the approval of the Board
  - b. With the consent of the Board for an additional period not to exceed a total absence of 90 days
  - c. In the case of illness or other urgent necessity, and upon a proper showing thereof, the time limited for absence from the state may be extended by the Board.

**FILLING VACANCIES (continued)**

- ed. For federal military deployment, not to exceed an absence of a total of six months, as a member of the armed forces of the United States or the California National Guard.

If the absence of the Board member for this purpose exceeds six months, the Board may approve an additional six-month absence upon a showing that there is a reasonable expectation that the member will return within the second six-month period, and the Board may appoint an interim member to serve in during the absence. If two or more members of the Board are absent by reason of these circumstances, and those absences result in the inability to establish a quorum at a regular meeting, the Board may immediately appoint one or more interim members as necessary to enable the Board to conduct business and discharge its responsibilities. The term of an interim member appointed in these circumstances shall not extend beyond the return of the absent Board member or beyond the next regularly scheduled election for that office, whichever occurs first.

- 8. A Board member's ceasing to discharge the duties of the office for the period of three consecutive months, except when prevented by illness or when absent from the state with the permission required by law (Government Code 1770)
- 9. A Board member's conviction of a felony or any offense involving a violation of his/her official duties or conviction of a designated crime resulting in a forfeiture of office (Government Code 1770, 3000-3003)
- 10. A Board member's refusal or neglect to file ~~his/her~~ the required oath within the time prescribed (Government Code 1770)
- 11. The decision of a competent tribunal declaring void a Board member's election or appointment (Government Code 1770)
- 12. A Board member's commitment to a hospital or sanitarium as a drug addict, dipsomaniac, inebriate, or stimulant addict by a court of competent jurisdiction, in which case the office shall not be deemed vacant until the order of commitment has become final (Government Code 1770)

## **FILLING VACANCIES (continued)**

13. A "failure to elect" in which no candidate or an insufficient number of candidates have filed to run for a Board seat(s) (Education Code 5090, 5326, 5328)

### **Timelines for Filling a Vacancy**

When a vacancy occurs, the Board shall take the following action, as appropriate:

1. When a vacancy occurs within four months of the end of a Board member's term, the Board shall take no action. (Education Code 5093)
2. When a vacancy occurs longer than four months before the end of a Board member's term, the Board shall, within 60 days of the date of the vacancy or the filing of the member's deferred resignation, either order an election or make a provisional appointment, unless a special election is mandated as described in item #3 below. (Education Code 5091, 5093)
3. When a vacancy occurs from six months to 130 days before a regularly scheduled Board election at which the position is not scheduled to be filled, a special election to fill the position shall be consolidated with the regular election. The person so elected shall take office at the first regularly scheduled Board meeting following the certification of the election and shall serve only until the end of the term of the position which ~~he/she~~ the person was elected to fill. (Education Code 5093)

### **Eligibility**

In order to be appointed or elected to fill a vacancy on the Board, a person must meet the eligibility requirements specified in Education Code 35107.

### **Provisional Appointments**

When authorized by law to make a provisional appointment to fill a vacancy on the Board, the Board shall advertise in the local media to solicit candidate applications or nominations. A committee consisting of less than a quorum of the Board shall ensure that applicants are eligible for Board membership and announce the names of the eligible candidates. The Board shall interview the candidates at a public meeting, accept oral or written public input, and select the provisional appointee by a majority vote.

Within 10 days after the appointment is made, the Board shall post notices of the actual vacancy, or the filing of a deferred resignation, and the provisional appointment. The notice shall be published in the local newspaper pursuant to Government Code 6061 and posted in at least three public places within the district. (Education Code 5092)

### **FILLING VACANCIES (continued)**

The notice shall contain: (Education Code 5092)

1. The date of the occurrence of the vacancy or the date of the filing of, and the effective date of, the resignation
2. The full name of the appointee
3. The date of appointment
4. A statement notifying the voters that unless a petition calling for a special election pursuant to Education Code 5091 is filed in the office of the County Superintendent within 30 days of the provisional appointment, it shall become an effective appointment

The person appointed shall hold office until the next regularly scheduled election for district Board members and shall be afforded all the powers and duties of a Board member upon appointment. (Education Code 5091)

If within 30 days of the Board's appointment, registered voters of the district or, where elections are by trustee areas, of the trustee area submit a petition for special election which the County Superintendent determines to be legally sufficient, the provisional appointment is terminated, and a special election shall be held in accordance with Education Code 5091 to fill the vacancy.

### **Appointment Due to Failure to Elect**

When a vacancy occurs because no candidate or an insufficient number of candidates have been nominated (i.e., a failure to elect) and a district election will not be held, the Board shall appoint a qualified person to the office. This appointment shall be made at a meeting prior to the day fixed for the election and the appointee shall be seated at the organizational meeting as if elected at the district election. (Education Code 5328)

When an appointment is being made because of a failure to elect, the district shall publish a notice once in a newspaper of general circulation published in the district, or if no such newspaper exists, in a newspaper having general circulation within the district. This notice shall state that the Board intends to make an appointment and shall inform persons of the procedure available for applying for the appointment. (Education Code 5328.5)

The procedure for selecting and interviewing candidates shall be the same as the procedures for "Provisional Appointments," as specified above.

**FILLING VACANCIES (continued)**

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**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 board to enact this policy. Instead, they are provided as additional resources for those interested in the subject matter of the policy.

<b>State</b>	<b>Description</b>
Ed. Code 35107	School district employees
Ed. Code 35178	Resignation with deferred effective date
Ed. Code 5000-5033	Election of school district board members
Ed. Code 5090-5095	Vacancies on the board
Ed. Code 5200-5208	Districts governed by boards of education
Ed. Code 5300-5304	General provisions; conduct of elections
Ed. Code 5320-5329	Order and call of elections
Ed. Code 5340-5345	Consolidation of elections
Ed. Code 5360-5363	Election notice
Ed. Code 5420-5426	Cost of elections
Ed. Code 5440-5442	Miscellaneous provisions
Elec. Code 10600-10604	School district elections
Elec. Code 11000-11386	Candidates for recall
Gov. Code 1064	Absence from state
Gov. Code 1770	Vacancy of office
Gov. Code 3000-3003	Forfeiture of office
Gov. Code 3060-3075	Removal other than by impeachment
Gov. Code 54950-54963	The Ralph M. Brown Act
Gov. Code 6061	Manner of notice as prescribed in designated section

**FILLING VACANCIES (continued)**

Pen. Code 88

Bribery; forfeiture from office

**Federal****Description**

18 USC 704

Military medals or decorations

**Management Resources****Description**

Attorney General Opinion

105 Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen. 182 (2022)

Attorney General Opinion

58 Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen. 888 (1975)

CSBA Publication

Filling a Board Vacancy, rev. 2022

Website

CSBA District and County Office of Education Legal Services

Website

California State Attorney General's Office, Quo Warranto Applications

Website

CSBA

**Cross References****Code****Description**

1340

Access To District Records

1340

Access To District Records

9100

Organization

9110

Terms Of Office

9130

Board Committees

9220

Governing Board Elections

9222

Resignation

9224

Oath Or Affirmation

9230

Orientation

**FILLING VACANCIES (continued)**

9323.2	Actions By The Board
9323.2-E(1)	Actions By The Board
9323.2-E(2)	Actions By The Board

Bylaw  
adopted: April 14, 1997  
revised: February 11, 2014  
revised: January 27, 2015  
revised: October 27, 2015  
revised: May 23, 2023

**VISALIA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
Visalia, California