

## **BARGAINING UNITS**

The Governing Board recognizes the right of district employees to form a bargaining unit, select an employee organization as their exclusive representative, and be represented by that organization in their employment relationship with the district. The Board is committed to negotiating in good faith with recognized employee organizations and respecting the rights of employees and employee organizations.

*(cf. 4141/4241 - Collective Bargaining Agreement)*  
*(cf. 4143/4243 - Negotiations/Consultation)*  
*(cf. 9000 - Role of the Board)*

The district shall not dominate or interfere with the formation or administration of any employee organization or contribute financial or other support to it. (Government Code 3543.5)

Employees shall not be prohibited from wearing union buttons or other items that favor or oppose the formation of a bargaining unit or any matter that is the subject of negotiations.  
*(cf. 4119.25/4219.25/4319.25 - Political Activities of Employees)*

### **Formation of Bargaining Units**

Certificated and classified employees shall not be included in the same bargaining unit. (Government Code 3545)

The district may recognize a bargaining unit of supervisory employees if: (Government Code 3545)

The bargaining unit includes all supervisory employees.

The supervisors are not represented by the same organization that represents employees whom the supervisory employees supervise.

*(cf. 4300 - Administrative and Supervisory Personnel)*  
*(cf. 4301 - Administrative Staff Organization)*  
*(cf. 4312.1 - Contracts)*

For this purpose, *supervisory employee* means any employee, regardless of job description, having the authority, in the interest of the district, to hire, transfer, suspend, lay off, recall, promote, discharge, assign, reward, discipline, assign work, direct, adjust grievance of other employees, or effectively recommend that action. The exercise of this authority shall not be merely routine or clerical in nature, but shall require the use of independent judgment. (Government Code 3540.1)

**BARGAINING UNITS** (continued)

Employees serving in management, senior management, or confidential positions shall not be represented by an exclusive representative. Such employees may represent themselves individually. For purposes other than negotiations and bargaining, such employees may be represented by an employee organization whose membership is composed entirely of employees designated as holding those positions. For this purpose: (Government Code 3540.1, 3543.4)

1. *Management employee* means any employee who has significant responsibilities for formulating district policies or administering district programs, and whose position is designated as a management position by the Board.
2. *Confidential employee* means any employee who is required to develop or present management positions with respect to employer-employee relations or whose duties normally require access to confidential information that is used to contribute significantly to the development of management positions.

**Membership**

The district shall not deter or discourage employees or job applicants from becoming or remaining members of an employee organization, authorizing representation by an employee organization, or authorizing dues or fee deductions to an employee organization. In addition, the district shall not impose or threaten to impose reprisals on employees, discriminate or threaten to discriminate against employees, or otherwise interfere with, restrain, or coerce employees because of their membership or nonmembership in an employee organization. (Government Code 3543.5, 3550)

(cf. 4119.1/4219.1/4319.1 - Civil and Legal Rights)

The Superintendent or designee may communicate with district employees regarding their rights to join and/or support an officially recognized employee organization or to refrain from joining or supporting an officially recognized employee organization. Such communications shall be factual and accurate, and may not promise a benefit, threaten a reprisal, or in any way deter or discourage employees from joining an employee organization or paying dues.

However, before disseminating to multiple employees any mass communication concerning employees' right to join or support an employee organization or to refrain from joining or supporting an employee organization, such as a written document or script for oral or recorded presentation or message, the Superintendent or designee shall meet and confer with the employees' exclusive representative regarding the content of the communication. If the district and exclusive representative do not come to agreement on the content of the mass communication, the Superintendent or designee may disseminate the district's mass communication provided that, at the same time, copies of the exclusive representative's communication, which shall be of reasonable length, are also distributed. (Government Code 3553)

## **BARGAINING UNITS (continued)**

### **Access to Employee Orientations**

The district shall permit employee organizations access to new employee orientations where newly hired employees are advised, whether in person, online, or through other means or mediums, of their employment status, rights, benefits, duties, responsibilities, or any other employment-related matters. The district shall provide employee organizations at least 10 days' notice in advance of an orientation. However, in any specific instance where an unforeseeable, urgent need critical to the district's operation prevents the required 10 days' notice, a shorter notice may be provided. (Government Code 3555.5, 3556)

The structure, time, and manner of the access to new employee orientations shall be determined by mutual agreement of the district and the exclusive representative, following a request to negotiate by either party. If the district and exclusive representative fail to reach an agreement, matters related to the access to new employee orientation shall be subject to compulsory interest arbitration. The district and employee organization may mutually agree to submit any dispute to compulsory interest arbitration at any time. In addition, if any dispute arises during negotiations and is not resolved within 45 days after the first meeting or within 60 days after the initial request to negotiate, whichever is earlier, either party may make a demand for compulsory interest arbitration. When any such dispute arises during the summer when the district's administrative office is closed, the timeline shall commence on the first day the administrative office reopens. The decision of the arbitrator shall be final and binding on the parties. (Government Code 3556, 3557)

The date, time, and place of the orientation shall not be disclosed to anyone other than employees, the exclusive representative, or a vendor that is contracted to provide a service for purposes of the orientation. (Government Code 3556)

Until June 30, 2025, in addition to above provisions regarding new employee orientations, the district shall ensure the following: (Government Code 3556)

1. When an in-person new employee orientation has not been conducted within 30 days of hiring any new employee who is working in person, the Superintendent or designee shall permit the exclusive representative to schedule an in-person meeting which newly hired employees shall have an opportunity to attend, at the employee's worksite and during employment hours. Each newly hired employee within the bargaining unit shall be provided at least 30 minutes of paid time to attend the meeting, during which the exclusive representative shall be permitted to communicate directly with the newly hired employees.

Within seven days of an exclusive representative's request to schedule such an in-person meeting, the Superintendent or designee shall provide an appropriate on-site meeting space.

**BARGAINING UNITS** (continued)

2. When, by reason of a state or local public health order limiting the size of gatherings, the district is prohibited from organizing a new employee orientation, an exclusive representative may schedule multiple meetings to ensure that newly hired employees have an opportunity to attend without exceeding the maximum allowable number of people. If such an order prohibits all gatherings, the exclusive representative may schedule a meeting(s) once the order is lifted or modified to permit gatherings.

Alternative access to these meetings shall be determined through mutual agreement between the district and the exclusive representative.

**Access to Employee Contact Information**

The Superintendent or designee shall provide an exclusive representative with the name, job title, department, work location, telephone numbers (work, home, and personal cell phone), personal email address(es) on file with the district, and home address, or information as otherwise specified by agreement between the district and a bargaining unit, of any newly hired employee in the bargaining unit, within 30 days of hire or by the first pay period of the month following hire. In addition, the Superintendent or designee shall provide the same information in regard to all employees in the bargaining unit to an exclusive representative at least every 120 days, unless more frequent or detailed lists are required by agreement with the exclusive representative. (Government Code 3558, 7928.300)

However, the Superintendent or designee shall not disclose: (Government Code 3558, 6207, 6215, 6215.2, 7928.300)

1. The home address and any phone numbers on file for employees performing law enforcement-related functions
2. The home address, home telephone or personal cell phone number(s), or personal email address(es) of any employee who is a participant in the Safe at Home address confidentiality program pursuant to Government Code 6207 3.
3. The employee's home address, home telephone and personal cell phone numbers, and personal email address of an employee not performing law enforcement related functions if the employee has submitted a written request to keep such information private. In such instances, the Superintendent or designee shall also remove the employee's home address, and home telephone and personal cell phone numbers from any mailing list maintained by the district unless the list is only used by the district to contact the employee.

*(cf. 1340 - Access to District Records)*

## **BARGAINING UNITS (continued)**

Within 20 calendar days after an exclusive representative notifies the Superintendent or designee that a list of employees provided by the district is inaccurate or incomplete, the Superintendent or designee shall take steps to correct the list and provide a new list of employees to the exclusive representative, to the extent as required by law. (Government Code 3558)

### **Communications with Employees**

Employee organizations may have access at reasonable times to areas in which employees work and may use district facilities at reasonable times for the purpose of meetings. Subject to reasonable regulation, employee organizations may also use institutional bulletin boards, mailboxes, and other means of communication to communicate with employees. (Government Code 3543.1)

Access to district means of communication shall be limited in cases where such access would be disruptive to district operations.

### **Membership Dues or Other Payments to an Employee Organization**

When drawing an order for the salary or wage payment of a bargaining unit employee of an employee organization, the district shall deduct any amount which has been requested by the employee in a revocable written authorization for the purpose of paying dues or other payments for any service, program, or committee provided or sponsored by the employee organization. (Education Code 45060, 45168)

An employee organization that certifies that it has and will maintain individual employee authorizations shall handle and process employee written authorizations for payroll deductions. When an employee organization provides such a certification to the district, the district shall rely on information from the employee organization regarding the amounts of such payroll deductions and from which employees. The employee organization shall not be required to submit to the district a copy of the written authorization in order for the payroll deductions to be effective. However, when there is a dispute about the existence or terms of the written authorization, a copy of the employee's written authorization shall be submitted to the district. The employee organization shall indemnify the district for any employee claims regarding payroll deductions made by the district in reliance on notification from the employee organization. (Education Code 45060, 45168)

When an employee organization which has declined to certify that it will handle and process employee written authorizations makes a request for payroll deductions, the district shall request a copy of the employee's written authorization before making the payroll deductions. (Education Code 45060, 45168)

A written authorization shall remain in effect until expressly revoked in writing by the employee and pursuant to the terms of the written authorization. Employee requests to cancel or change authorizations for payroll deductions for employee organizations shall be directed

**BARGAINING UNITS** (continued)

to the employee organization rather than the district. The employee organization shall be responsible for processing these requests. The district shall rely on the information provided by the employee organization regarding whether deductions for an employee organization were properly canceled or changed. The employee organization shall be required to indemnify the district for any claims made by an employee for deductions made by the district in reliance on information from the employee organization. (Education Code 45060, 45168)

*Legal Reference:*

**EDUCATION CODE**

*45060-45061.5 Deduction of fees from salary or wage payment, certificated employees*

*45100.5 Senior management positions*

*45104.5 Abolishment of senior classified management positions*

*45108.5 Definition of senior classified management employees*

*45108.7 Waiver of provisions of 45108.5*

*45168 Deduction of fees from salary or wage payment, classified employees*

*45220-45320 Merit system, classified employees*

**GOVERNMENT CODE**

*3540-3549.3 Educational Employment Relations Act, especially:*

*3540.1 Definitions*

*3543.4 Management position; representation*

*3545 Appropriateness of unit; basis*

*3550-3552 Prohibition on public employers deterring or discouraging union membership*

*3555-3559 Public employee communication, information and orientation*

*6205-6210 Confidentiality of addresses for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault or stalking*

*6254.3 Disclosure of employee contact information to employee organization*

*6503.5 Joint powers agencies*

*53260-53264 Employment contracts*

**CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 8**

*33015-33490 Recognition of exclusive representative; proceedings*

*33700-33710 Severance of established unit*

*34020 Petition to rescind organizational security arrangement*

*34055 Reinstatement of organizational security arrangement*

**COURT DECISIONS**

*Janus v. American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, Council 31, (2018) 138*

*S.Ct. 2448*

*Friedrichs v. California Teachers Association, et al., (2016) 136 S.Ct. 1083*

*County of Los Angeles v. Service Employees International Union, Local 721, (2013) 56 Cal. 4th 905*

**PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT RELATIONS BOARD RULINGS**

*City of Sacramento, (2019) PERB Dec. No. 2702m*

*East Whittier School District, (2004) PERB Dec. No. 1727*

*Management Resources: (next page)*

**BARGAINING UNITS** (continued)

*Management Resources:*

*WEB SITES*

*CSBA: <http://www.csba.org>*

*Association of California School Administrators: <http://www.acsa.org>*

*California Federation of Teachers: <http://www.cft.org>*

*California School Employees Association: <http://www.csea.com>*

*California Teachers Association: <http://www.cta.org>*

*Public Employment Relations Board: <http://www.perb.ca.gov>*

Policy  
adopted: June 24, 1997  
revised: March 27, 2012  
revised: April 10, 2018  
revised: March 26, 2019  
revised: May 25, 2021  
revised: May 23, 2023  
revised: November 14, 2023

**VISALIA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
Visalia, California