

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT STATE BOARD MEETINGS

Code **BCBI**

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Constitutional and Statutory Provisions:

State Board Rule:

The State Board of Education recognizes its obligation to help citizens of the State understand the operation of the public schools. The Board is also aware of the need for communication with citizens to permit the public to make its wishes known and also to permit the Board to explain general policies governing the operation of the schools in the State. Therefore, in an effort to provide a procedure by which matters of statewide interest concerning the schools may be brought before the Board while at the same time permitting the Board to conduct its meetings in an orderly and efficient manner, the State Board of Education announces the following policy with regard to citizen participation in the meetings of the Board:

Citizen participation will take place only during that part of the regular monthly meeting designated on the agenda as the "*Public Comment Period*."

Procedures for the "*Public Comment Period*" are as follows:

- (1) No commercial solicitations will be allowed. If any speaker makes such an attempt, he/she will immediately be asked to refrain from making any further remarks of a commercial nature.
- (2) The chair shall limit each individual's comments to five (5) minutes, and the entire Period to thirty (30) minutes.
- (3) There will be no response by Board members to remarks made during the Public Comment Period. Board action, if any is warranted, shall be taken only at a subsequent meeting.
- (4) These procedures may be temporarily waived by a vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the Board members present at any meeting where such a waiver is justified by extenuating circumstances.

Complaints filed with the State Board of Education should relate only to matters over which the Board has direct jurisdiction. It is not within the authority of the State Board of Education to exercise those functions which the Legislature has specifically conferred on county and local boards of trustees. Areas of local involvement, such as failure of a teacher to be re-employed by a local board of trustees, assignment of pupils, discipline of students, and similar matters related to local operations, should be pursued at the district level.

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Statement of Chair

The following statement will be read before any citizen speaks to the Board during the Public Comment Period:

We appreciate your interest in public education. You will be allotted five (5) minutes for your comments. Since we are hearing your comments for the first time, it is our policy to accept your comments as information. If we have questions or need additional information, we will contact you at a later date. Thank you for understanding our procedures.