

## **Do's and Don'ts for Enhancing the Relationship between Governing Board Members and the Chief Executive**

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### Some Suggested "Do's":

- Do recognize that the Chief Executive works for the entire Governing Board as an entity, not individual Board Members
- Do view the Chief Executive as a partner in policy-making and achieving Governing Board goals
- Do encourage the Governing Board to establish priorities and strategic goals for the organization, thus focusing and legitimizing the work of the Chief Executive and the staff
- Do respect the position and role of the Chief Executive as he/she must respect your role as a Governing Board Member. For example, recognize that the District's staff work for the Chief Executive and report to the Chief Executive, not the Board
- Do understand and respect the Chief Executive's Code of Ethics - Listen, inquire, and learn in your interactions with local government staff, interest groups, and community members before you formally make decisions and commitments for the organization and community
- Do make decisions and commitments in public at Governing Board meetings
- Do respect the fact that the Chief Executive is trying to manage the organization and the District budget in times of economic meltdown
- Do share with other Governing Board Members, the Chief Executive, and the Chief Counsel the content of any significant discussions with an interest group related to a matter of importance to the Board or the community
- Do encourage the Governing Board as an entity to adopt protocols of behavior

### Some Suggested "Don'ts":

- Don't make commitments outside of formal Governing Board meetings
- Don't surprise the Chief Executive. Just as Chief Executives should never surprise Governing Board members, Governing Board members should never surprise the Chief Executive
- Don't try to "go around" the Chief Executive to influence District staff in implementing your agenda or getting desired action
- Don't act as a "lone ranger." Work with the other Governing Board Members and the Chief Executive to decide direction, take action, and make a positive impact
- Don't criticize District personnel in public. Question policies or programs, but do not criticize staff people including the Chief Executive or other employees

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*See more at the CSDA website: <http://www.csda.net/good-governance-resources/#sthash.iPTCTBaz.dpuf>*

