

**ELECTRONIC SIGNATURES**

The Board of Trustees believes that the use of electronic records and signatures is a convenient paperless option that can increase efficiency in commercial and administrative transactions, reduce costs, and contribute to environmental sustainability in district operations. The Board authorizes the use of electronic signatures in district operations when authorized by law.

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that any electronic signature utilized by the district conforms with criteria described in law and that the level of security is sufficient for the transaction being conducted. (Government Code 16.5; 2 CCR 22003, 22005)

The Superintendent or designee shall retain electronic records in accordance with law and regulations, and as specified in BP/AR 3580 - District Records.

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When authorized by law, electronic signatures may be used in the operation of district business and/or administration.

In any business transaction, an electronic signature shall only be used when each party has agreed to conduct the transaction by electronic means. In other district operations, the Superintendent or designee may require the use of an electronic signature. (Civil Code 1633.5; 15 USC 7001)

A *digital signature* is defined as an electronic identifier, created by computer, intended by the party using it to have the same force and effect as the use of a manual signature. (Government Code 16.5)

An *electronic signature* consists of an electronic sound, symbol, or process attached to or logically associated with an electronic record and executed or adopted by a person with the intent to sign the electronic record. (Civil Code 1633.2)

In order for an electronic signature to be used, the electronic signature shall be: (Government Code 16.5; 2 CCR 22002)

1. Unique to the person using it
2. Capable of verification
3. Under the sole control of the person using it
4. Linked to data in such a manner that if the data are changed the electronic signature is invalidated
5. Conform to 2 CCR 22000-22005

Prior to accepting an electronic signature, the Superintendent or designee shall ensure the following: (2 CCR 22005)

1. That the signature is created by acceptable technology pursuant to 2 CCR 22003
2. That the level of security used to identify the signer of the document and to transmit the signature is sufficient for the transaction being conducted
3. That, if a certificate is a required component of the electronic signature, the certificate format used by the signer is sufficient for the security and interoperability needs of the district.

**ELECTRONIC SIGNATURES (cont.)**

AR 3523(a)

If a notarized signature is required with respect to an electronic signature, the electronic signature of the notary public together with all of the other information required by law to be included in a notarization shall accompany the electronic signature. (Civil Code 1633.11)

If a statement is required to be signed under penalty of perjury, the electronic signature shall include all of the information to which the declaration pertains together with a declaration under penalty of perjury by the person who submits the electronic signature that the information is true and correct. (Civil Code 1633.11)