

PUBLIC MEETING LAWS

RALPH M. BROWN ACT

(California Government Code 54950-54963)

Applies to: - School boards
- County office of education boards

Requirements:

- All decisions must take place at a public meeting.
- Notice and agendas must be posted online at least 72 hours before a meeting.
 - Notice must include the date, time, and location of the meeting.
 - The decision-making body cannot consider any items that are not listed on the agenda.
- Any materials considered during a meeting must be publicly available before the meeting takes place.
- Members of the public must be allowed to provide comment.
- A majority number of board members cannot communicate about any decisions outside of a public meeting.

What happens if there is a violation?

- If the decision-making body discusses an item at a public meeting that was not on the agenda, members of the public can ask that the item be reconsidered at a future meeting.
- If the decision-making body makes a decision during a public meeting on an item that was not on the agenda or makes a decision outside of a public meeting, any member of the public can sue to invalidate the decision.
- Members of the decision-making body could potentially be charged with a crime.

PUBLIC MEETING LAWS

LEROY F. GREENE ACT

(California Education Code 35140 – 35149)

Applies to: Parent advisory committees, including:

- District English Learner Advisory Councils (DELACs)
- English Learner Advisory Councils (ELACs)
- District Advisory Councils (DACs)
- School Site Councils (SSCs)

Requirements:

- All meetings must be open to the public.
- Notice and agendas must be posted at the school site or other places that are accessible to the public at least 72 hours before a meeting.
 - Notice must include the date, time, and location of the meeting.
 - The committee cannot consider any items that are not listed on the agenda except in emergencies.
- Members of the public must be allowed to speak on any issue related to the committee's subject area.

What happens if there is a violation?

If a committee discusses an item at a public meeting that was not on the agenda, members of the public can ask that the item be reconsidered at a future meeting.

Key differences from the Brown Act:

- No provisions prohibiting communications among a majority of members outside of public meetings.
- No criminal charges against individuals for violations.

