

Can student representatives on a school board vote?

Hi Andrea,

[Section E Proxy Voting in the DOJ Public Records and Meeting Manual](#) makes it clear that board members can't give their voting power to another individual, including students:

"Absent a specific statutory provision authorizing a proxy, proxy voting is not authorized and is improper since no member of a board, commission, or council is empowered to delegate his or her vote to others."

I've cc'd my legal team because I wasn't able to find the specific mention in statute on voting authority. I'm hoping they can give us an assist.

[Vincent Adams](#) | [he-him-his](#)

Board Development Specialist

[Oregon School Boards Association](#)

e. vadams@osba.org | m. 541.240.4055

Can we add voting positions to the board?

Good afternoon Andrea,

I am following up on your emails below. Generally, the number of directors on a school board are determined by statute, there are five or seven members on a school board. See ORS 332.011 and ORS 332.015. A majority vote of the school district board is required to transact any business. See ORS 332.055. The method for increasing board members is directed by statute along with who is eligible to serve on a board. ORS 332.012; ORS 332.018. To be eligible to serve on a board, an individual must have lived in the district for one year immediately preceding the election and be a registered voter. ORS 332.018.

Thus, student reps should not be given the same voting privileges as the Board.

Please let me know if this answers your questions. Thank you.

Leslie

Leslie Howell (she/her/hers)
Senior Assistant Legal Counsel
Oregon School Boards Association
1201 Court St. NE, Suite 400
Salem, Oregon 97301
lhowell@osba.org
503-485-4800 (legal general)