

Book	Policy Manual
Section	000 Local Board Procedures
Title	Student Board Representative
Code	005.1
Status	Active
Adopted	June 2024

Purpose

The Board of School Directors recognizes that the students attending the Pittsburgh Public School are the most important concern of the school district. The Board encourages the participation of students in District governance and believes that student voice and involvement in the governance process is critical to the success of the District. The Board establishes the non-voting position of Student Representative to the Board of School Directors to serve on the Board to engage with and represent the interests of all students in the District.

Guidelines

The Board shall appoint two (2) non-voting Student Representatives. The Board shall appoint the Student Representatives for a two (2) school year term, commencing in August.

Qualifications for Student Selection

To serve as a non-voting Student Representative students shall meet the following requirements, at a minimum:

1. be a current student at the School District of Pittsburgh;
2. apply during their tenth (10th) grade or eleventh (11th) grade year at the District to serve during their eleventh (11th) or twelfth (12th) grade year;
3. have a minimum GPA of 2.5 or higher;
4. be able to demonstrate a willingness to actively participate in the work of Student Representatives to include meetings with Board staff to maintain the work of a Student Representative;
5. demonstrate an ability and willingness to work collaboratively with their counterpart in pursuit of successfully carrying out the work of Student Representatives;
6. be actively involved in their school community and willing to work to support the District, on behalf of their peers, on a regular basis; and
7. be willing to represent their peers by communicating student opinions to the Board, and reporting Board deliberations and actions to the student body.

Application/Selection

Interested students must apply by a specified date in the spring, including two (2) letters of recommendation and their transcripts. The Superintendent will make a recommendation by a Legislative Meeting preceding the start of the school year for Board consideration. An oath will be publicly administered to the two (2) non-voting Student Representatives. The oath will be administered by any official having the general power to administer oaths. Such officials include judges or other judicial officers, clerks of court, designated staff of the county prothonotary, and commissioned notaries public.

Term of Office

The duration of service for Student Board Representatives shall be two (2) years, with the provision for a shorter term in the event of graduation or departure from the District.

Responsibilities

Student Board Representatives will carry out the following privileges and responsibilities:

1. Attend the public legislative voting meetings as nonvoting participants. The Student Representatives will not attend executive sessions except by special invitation.
2. Receive the appropriate agenda and related materials for the public Board meetings.
3. Participate in one (1) training session prior to taking the position.
4. Shall have an appropriate place to speak on the meeting agenda to provide an opportunity for a student body update each month.
5. Be respectful to the other Student Board Representative, Board members, District staff and the general public.
6. Be cognizant of the role of the Board as a policy-making body.
7. Shall serve as leaders that represent the student voice for all District schools.

Student representatives shall not:

1. Participate in any official votes conducted by the Board.
2. Participate in confidential Board executive sessions.
3. Publicly represent the intent of the Board.
4. Contract on behalf of the Board or the District.

Communication Structure

To ensure a structured communication process, Student Board Representatives, regardless of whether they are members of the Superintendent's Student Advisory Council, will attend a monthly District-wide meeting. At this meeting, the Student Board Representatives can share the information they have with student representatives from each of the high schools. These student representatives can then disseminate the information at their monthly PSCC meeting.

Orientation and Training

The Board is committed to keeping appointed Student Representatives well informed and prepared to perform the respective duties and responsibilities outlined in their role. All appointed Student representatives shall participate in an orientation and training following their appointment.

Monitoring and Support

The Board President shall select from interested Board Members one (1) Board Member to serve as the Board's Liaison to the Student Representatives. This Board Liaison shall serve as a mentor to appointed Student Representatives to educate and ensure that Student Representatives understand the work of the Board and acquire non-confidential knowledge of matters related to the operation of schools. The Board Liaison shall also report back to the Board on the work of the Student Representatives, provide relevant updates to the public, and coordinate necessary staff support.

Standards of Behavior

Student Representatives will be expected to maintain high standards in behavior, being sure to avoid violations of the Student Code of Conduct. A committee of principals will be assigned to act as a Special Committee to address the violations of the Code and make recommendations to the Superintendent. In the event that a student is removed from the position of Student Board Representative, a new Student Board Representative will be appointed for the remainder of the latter's term.

Confidentiality

Individuals serving in the capacity of Student Board Representative and Student Board Representatives shall not have access to any document, deliberation or discussion that is of an Executive Session nature and/or is confidential pursuant to any applicable state or federal law, including but not limited to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) the state confidentiality laws.

Vacancies

In the event that a student resigns from their position as Student Representative, a new Student Board Representative will be appointed for the remainder of the latter's term.

Exit Interviews

After completion of the Student Board Representative's term, an exit interview shall be conducted by the District for evaluation and re-evaluation of the efficacy of the initiative. The exit interview may be written or verbal.

Legal

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