

**STUDENT BOARD MEMBERS**

The Solano County Board of Education believes it is important to seek out and consider students' ideas, viewpoints, and reactions to the educational program. In order to enhance communication and collaboration between the Board and the student body and to teach the importance of civic involvement, the Board supports the input and involvement of students in governance.

**Student Petition Submitted**

A high school student under the direct jurisdiction of the County Board may submit a petition to the Board requesting the appointment of at least one student member to the Board. (Education Code section 1000(b)(1))

The petition for student representation must contain the signatures of at least 500 or more students or 10 percent or more of the number of students regularly enrolled in high schools under the direct jurisdiction of the Board, whichever is less. (Ed. Code § 1000(b)(2))

Within 60 days of receipt of a student petition, or at its next regularly scheduled meeting if no meeting is held within those 60 days, the Board shall order the inclusion of at least one Student Board Member. (Ed. Code § 1000(b)(2).)

**Role And Responsibilities of Student Board Member(s)**

Each Student Board Member shall have the right and responsibility to attend each and all meetings of the County Board, except closed sessions. Student Board Member(s) shall be seated with regular Board Members and shall be recognized as full members, including receiving all open meeting materials at the same time the materials are presented to other Board Members. Student Board Member(s) shall not receive any materials related to closed session meetings. (Ed. Code § 1000(b)(6), (9))

Student Board Member(s) shall be invited to participate in staff briefings of Board Members, or be provided a separate staff briefing within the same timeframe as other Board Members, and shall be invited to attend other functions of the Board, such as forums, meetings with students and parents, and other general assemblies. In addition, Student Board Member(s) shall participate in the questioning of witnesses and the discussion of issues. (Ed. Code § 1000(b)(9)) The Student Board Member(s) shall ensure and protect the privacy of each student, and of the parents or guardians of each student, involved in proceedings before the Board acting in its capacity as an appellate body. (Ed. Code § 1000(b)(13))

Student Board Member(s) shall be appointed to subcommittees of the Board in the same manner as other Board Members. However, each Student Board Member shall be notified of the time commitment required to participate in subcommittee meetings and work and may decline an appointment to a subcommittee. (Ed. Code § 1000(b)(6))

The Board may adopt a resolution authorizing the Student Board Member(s) to make motions that may be acted upon by the Board. If such resolution is made and approved, Student Board Member(s) may make motions that may be acted upon by the Board, except relating to matters dealing with employees-employer relations. (Ed. Code § 1000(b)(5))

Student Board Member(s) shall be allowed preferential voting on all matters, except those subject to closed session discussion. Preferential voting rights means a formal expression of opinion that is recorded in the minutes and cast before the official vote of the Board. The preferential vote of the Student Board Member(s) shall not be included in determining the vote required to carry any measure before the Board. (Ed. Code § 1000(b)(4))

Student Board Member(s) shall be entitled to be reimbursed for mileage to the same extent as other members of the Board but shall not receive compensation for attendance at Board meetings. The Board may award a Student Board Member elective course credit based on the number of equivalent daily instructional minutes for the Student Board Member's services provided. (Ed. Code §§ 1000(b)(8) and 35120(f))

Student Board Member(s) shall not be considered members of a legislative body or a local agency for purposes of the Ralph M. Brown Act and shall not be liable for any acts of the County Board. (Ed. Code, §§ 1000(b)(11) and (c))

#### Student Eligibility, Application, and Election Process

Commencing July 1, 2023, once a qualifying petition for student representation has been submitted to the County Board and the Board has ordered the inclusion of at least one Student Board Member, the application and selection process shall occur annually, and no further student petition shall be required to be submitted to the Board. The Board or designee will notify the high school students under its direct jurisdiction that students are eligible to apply to the Board for a position as a Student Board Member. The notification will include information regarding the application process.

##### A. Eligibility

To be eligible to serve as a Student Board Member, a student must:

1. Currently be enrolled at a high school that is under the direct jurisdiction of the County Board. (Ed. Code, § 1000(b)(7))
2. Be willing to dedicate time needed to fulfill the responsibilities of the position.
3. Be able to attend all open-session County Board meetings.

##### B. Application Process

The County Board encourages all interested and eligible students to apply. The Board shall ensure that the application and election process is nonsectarian and nondiscriminatory. To be considered, all interested and eligible students must complete an application packet, which includes:

1. Submission of an application form by the application deadline. The application should include applicant's signature attesting the applicant is enrolled in a high school under the direct jurisdiction of the County Board. Interested candidates shall also be required to gather a minimum of 10% of signatures from high school students under the direct jurisdiction of the Board, attesting that they meaningfully support the applicant's candidacy.
2. Submission of a Statement of Interest.
3. Submission of at least one but no more than three letters of recommendation. At least one letter must be from a current or former teacher and/or one letter from an administrator or counselor at the student's high school. All the letters should be from individuals who know the student personally and include comments on the student's academic and leadership abilities, as well as their perspectives regarding the student as a potential member of the County Board.
4. Submission of a resume of activities and areas interest.

C. Selection of Student Board Member

Student Board Members shall be chosen in accordance with the following procedures.

The Student Board Members shall be selected as follows:

1. The County Board or designee will review all the student application packets submitted by the deadline, identify eligible candidates, and notify all eligible candidates that they are progressing to the next step in the selection process.
2. All eligible candidates must provide a presentation at a regular County Board meeting. The Board or designee will notify candidates of the date and time of the meeting at least 45 days prior to the meeting.
3. The County Board shall select the finalist to be appointed as the Student Board Member, by majority vote. The Board may select more than one Student Board Member.

Step	Deadline
Documents of Candidacy Filing Deadline	60 days following notification to high school students
Final Candidate Selection	45 days after filing deadline
Final Candidate Presentation / Interview	60 days after final candidate selection
County Board Selection	30 days after final candidate presentation at Board meeting
Start of Term	July 1

Term

The term of office shall be one year, commencing on July 1–June 30. (Ed. Code § 1000(b)(7))

The term of a Student Board Member may be adjusted only in cases where a vacancy occurs or to provide more students with an opportunity to serve on the County Board. (Ed. Code § 1000(b)(7)) If the position of Student Board Member becomes vacant before the end of the term, another Student Board Member may be elected following the steps listed above.

If the County Board determines the Student Board Member is not fulfilling his/her duties, the Board may appoint a student to serve as an alternate Student Board Member who would fulfill all duties and have the same rights as the Student Board Member. In such cases, the Board shall suspend the prior Student Board Member’s rights and privileges related to service on the Board. (Ed. Code § 1000(b)(3))

Elimination of Position

A majority vote of all voting County Board members of the Board shall be required to approve a motion to eliminate a Student Board Member position from the Board. Such a motion shall be listed as a public agenda item for a Board meeting prior to the motion being voted upon. (Ed. Code § 1000(b)(12))

Student Board Member Development

The County Board may approve, at Solano County Office of Education’s (“County Office”) expense, learning opportunities to Student Board Member(s) to enhance their knowledge, understanding, and performance of their Board responsibilities.