

STUDENT BOARD MEMBERS

In order to enhance communication and collaboration between the Governing Board and the student body and to teach students the importance of civic involvement, the Board supports the participation of high school students in district governance.

Student Board members may, at the Board's discretion, receive elective course credit for service as a student Board member based on the number of equivalent daily instructional minutes for the student Board member's services provided. (Education Code 35012, 35120)

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 monetary compensation for attendance at Board meetings. (Education Code 35012)

(cf. 3350 - Travel Expenses)

(cf. 9250 - Remuneration, Reimbursement and Other Benefits)

A student Board member shall not be liable for any acts of the Board. (Education Code 35012)

(cf. 9323.2 - Actions by the Board)

Petition

High school students may submit a petition to the Board requesting the appointment of at least one student Board member. (Education Code 35012)

To qualify for Board consideration, the petition for student representation shall contain the signatures of at least 500 students or 10 percent of the number of students regularly enrolled in district high schools, whichever is less. (Education Code 35012)

Within 60 days of receiving a student petition, or at the next regularly scheduled Board meeting if no meeting is held within those 60 days, the Board shall order the inclusion of at least one student member on the Board. (Education Code 35012)

Choosing Student Board Member

A student Board member shall be chosen by students enrolled in the district's high schools in accordance with procedures prescribed by the Board. (Education Code 35012)

The term of student Board member(s) shall be one year, commencing on July 1. However, the Board may adjust the term of a student Board member only if a vacancy occurs or in order to give more students an opportunity to serve on the Board. (Education Code 35012)

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(cf. 0410 - Nondiscrimination in District Programs and Activities)

(cf. 5121 - Grades/Evaluation of Student Achievement)

(cf. 6145 - Extracurricular and Cocurricular Activities)

Role and Responsibilities of Student Board Members

Student Board members shall not be considered members of a legislative body for purposes of the Brown Act. (Education Code 35012)

A student Board member shall not be counted in determining the vote required to carry any measure before the Board or whether a quorum is in attendance at a Board meeting.

Student Board member(s) shall have the right to attend all Board meetings except closed (executive) sessions. (Education Code 35012)

(cf. 9321 - Closed Session)

All materials presented to Board members, except those related to closed sessions, shall be presented to student Board members at the same time they are presented to voting Board members. Student Board member(s) shall also be invited to attend staff briefings or be provided with a separate staff briefing within the same timeframe as the briefing of other Board members. In addition, all materials given to Board members by the district between meetings, except for materials that pertain to closed session items, shall be distributed to student Board members. (Education Code 35012)

(cf. 9322 - Agenda/Meeting Materials)

Student Board member(s) shall be recognized at Board meetings as full member(s), shall be seated with other members of the Board, and shall be allowed to participate in questioning witnesses and discussing issues. (Education Code 35012)

Student Board member(s) shall be allowed to cast preferential votes on all matters except those subject to closed session discussion. *Preferential voting* means a formal expression of opinion that is recorded in the minutes and cast before the official vote of the Board. Preferential votes shall not affect the final numerical outcome of a vote. (Education Code 35012)

(cf. 9324 - Minutes and Recordings)

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Student Board member(s) may make motions that may be acted upon by the Board, except on matters dealing with employer-employee relations pursuant to Government Code 3540-3549.3. (Education Code 35012)

Student Board members shall be appointed to subcommittees of the Board in the same manner as other Board members, be made aware of the time commitment required to participate in subcommittee meetings and work, and have the right to decline an appointment. The availability of all subcommittee members, including the availability of student Board members, may be considered when scheduling subcommittee meetings. (Education Code 35012)

(cf. 9130 - Board Committees)

Student Board members shall be invited to attend functions of the Board, such as forums, meetings with students and parents/guardians, and other general assemblies. (Education Code 35012)

Student Board members shall not be considered members of a legislative body for purposes of the Brown Act. (Education Code 35012)

A student Board member shall not be counted in determining whether a quorum of the Board is in attendance.

Student Board Member Development

The Superintendent or designee may, at district expense, provide learning opportunities to student Board members through trainings, workshops, and conferences, such as those offered by the California School Boards Association and other organizations, to enhance their knowledge, understanding, and performance of their Board responsibilities.

(cf. 9240 - Board Training)

The Superintendent or designee may periodically provide information to student Board member candidates to give them an understanding of the responsibilities and expectations of Board service. Once elected or appointed, incoming student Board members shall be provided an orientation designed to build knowledge of the district and an understanding of the responsibilities and expectations of the position.

(cf. 9230 - Orientation)

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Alternate Student Board Member

If the Board determines that the student Board member's duties are not being fulfilled, the Board may appoint another student to serve as an alternate student Board member. If an alternate student Board member is appointed, the Board shall suspend the prior student Board member's rights and privileges related to service on the Board. (Education Code 35012)

Elimination of Position

Once established, the student Board member position shall continue to exist until the Board, by majority vote of all voting Board members, approves a motion to eliminate the position. Such a motion shall be listed as a public agenda item for a Board meeting prior to the motion being voted upon. (Education Code 35012)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

33000.5 Appointment of student member to State Board of Education

35012 Board members; number, election and terms; student members

35120 Course credit for student board members

35160 Authority of governing boards

GOVERNMENT CODE

3540-3549.3 Educational Employment Relations Act

54950-54964 Ralph M. Brown Act

Management Resources:

WEB SITES

CSBA: <http://www.csba.org>

California Association of Student Councils: <http://www.casc.net>

California Association of Student Leaders: <http://www.caslboard.com>

National School Boards Association: <http://www.nsba.org>

Bylaw

adopted: April 14, 1997

revised: June 21, 2016

revised: June 26, 2018

revised: October 27, 2020

revised: May 24, 2022

VISALIA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Visalia, California