



Responsible Office: Office of Accountability

BOARD POLICY 5350

STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL AND STUDENT LEADERSHIP

PURPOSE

The Board of Trustees (Board) believes that student perspectives related to educational decisions being made by the Washoe County School District (District) should be solicited. This Board Policy supports the establishment of a Student Representative to the Board of Trustees, a Student Advisory Council of the Superintendent, and encourages individual site-based Student Voice programs.

DEFINITIONS

1. "Student Leadership" refers to a representative structure through which students can become involved in the affairs of the District and/or their school, working in partnership with leadership, employees, and parents/guardians for the benefit of the District, the school(s) and students. This can include but is not limited to student council/government, student leadership representative of the student body, civic engagement, and similar activities.

POLICY

1. The Board and Superintendent support the use of organized means of student input through the use of a Student Representative to the Board, Student Advisory Council to the Superintendent, and site-based Student Voice programs.
 - a. Student leadership initiatives ensure students have a means through which they may participate in District and school-based decision and policy making that impacts the lives and educational experiences of students. Such participation is a valuable dimension of a student's educational experience by providing preparation for citizenship and fostering a mature attitude;
 - b. Leadership initiative opportunities allow an outlet for student members to:
 - i. Provide student perspectives on education policy issues by representing the student body as a whole at their individual schools;

- ii. Develop materials and the means through which those materials are disseminated to assist students in understanding their rights and responsibilities;
- iii. Consider the views of students in whole school matters;
- iv. Include students in the development and improvement of their school;
- v. Enable students to develop a sense of belonging to the school community; and
- vi. Allow students to make a positive contribution to the school environment.

2. Student Representative to the Board

- a. The Student Advisory Council shall appoint a student as the chairperson of the Student Advisory Council. The Board shall annually appoint the chairperson of the Student Advisory Council as the Student Representative to sit as a non-voting, ex-officio member on the Board of Trustees for a one-year term;
- b. The Student Representative to the Board shall receive consent from his/her guardian prior to serving as Student Representative;
- c. The Student Representative to the Board shall, during his/her term:
 - i. Maintain the same qualifications established by the District for students to participate in extra-curricular activities;
 - ii. As practical, attend all public portions of regular meetings of the Board and serve in a non-voting capacity. The student representative is encouraged to participate in discussions of matters before the Board;
- d. The specific duties of the student representative may include:
 - i. Upon invitation by the Board President, special meetings, and work sessions of the Board;
 - ii. Read and review all materials prior to Board meetings;
 - iii. Be prepared to fully participate in all discussions at Board meetings;

- iv. When necessary and appropriate, provide brief updates to the Board about matters related to the Student Advisory Council of the Superintendent and District students;
- v. Maintain confidentiality; and
- vi. Note whenever there may be a conflict of interest on an action item.

3. Student Advisory Council to the Superintendent (Council)

- a. The Superintendent shall establish the Council for the purpose of soliciting student input and ideas about key issues;
- b. Meetings of the Council shall be student driven. Council meetings shall be facilitated procedurally by the Office of Accountability;
- c. Specific Council operating procedures shall be established through the Student Advisory Council to the Superintendent. Those procedures shall include:
 - i. Membership. Members will represent all of the students in the District and their respective schools, with each high school principal delegating a staff member to select two students to serve on the Council;
 - ii. Eligibility. Members must maintain the same qualifications established by the District for students to participate in extra-curricular activities;
 - iii. Meeting Structure. The Council is not a committee of the Board and shall not be required to comply with Nevada's Open Meeting Law. To ensure all students and other interested parties are able to participate in meetings of the Council, meetings shall be posted to the District website for access by the community; and
 - iv. Input and Feedback. The manner through which the Council shall provide input to the Superintendent and other District leadership.

4. Student Leadership

- a. Effective student leadership opportunities, to include student government and other similar activities, create opportunities for student connection and belonging and foster high achievement in young leaders;
- b. Student leadership programs can play a positive role on the school campus in ways which include but are not limited to:

- i. Supporting a positive school culture by encouraging student participation in assemblies, clubs/organizations, and other extra-curricular activities;
- ii. Establishing programs and initiatives that promote student health and safe choices such as healthy choices, campus safety, and anti-bullying and suicide prevention; and
- iii. Promoting 21st century workforce initiatives by promoting peer tutoring programs, student leadership opportunities, and the link between feeder schools and college/career days.

LEGAL REQUIREMENTS AND ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS

1. This Board Policy reflects the goals of the District's Strategic Plan and aligns/complies with the governing documents of the District, to include:
 - a. Board Policy 5310, Student Voice.

REVISION HISTORY

Date	Revision	Modification
06/06/2017	1.0	Adopted: Merge deleted Board Policy 5041, Student Advisory Board to the Board of Trustees
03/08/2022	2.0	Revised: Update formatting and clarify language.