

Student Representatives to the Board of Directors

The Richland School District Board of Directors (the Board) realizing the goal of public schools is to educate all students seeks the input, feedback, and experience of students in the District. Therefore, the Board has created a non-voting, advisory Board position for up to two Student Representatives enrolled in a Richland School District High School. The role of the student representative(s) will be:

- Provide student insight and perspective to the Board and District administration and assist the Board in understanding student issues,
- Serve as a liaison to the students in the District through the established student government and communication networks; and
- Report to the students about the work of the school district and the Board.

The Student Representative(s) will be bound by all applicable rules and regulations pertaining to the elected Board members as outlined in the policy. The Student Representative(s) will participate in Board discussion, but will not have the right to make motions, vote, hold Board offices or attend Executive Sessions.

Purpose

1. The purpose of the student representative(s) to the School Board is to serve as a liaison between the governing body of the District and high school students.
2. Up to two high school student representatives from different schools, a Junior and a Senior will serve as liaisons to the Board. The student representative(s) will provide insight and support to improve the Board's understanding of student issues and perspectives. Helping the Board to better understand the impacts of our decisions.
3. The student representative(s) shall represent all the high schools and all students throughout the District in accordance with the following qualifications, selection procedures, and responsibilities.

Term of Office

1. The representative(s) shall be selected in the spring of the current year, for the following year.
2. The term of office for the high school senior will be one school year, beginning in July and concluding in June. The high school junior will have the option to re-apply to serve an additional year. Regardless, the junior (moving up to senior) will be asked to continue through September to onboard the new Student Representatives.
3. In the event of a vacancy during the school year, a student will be selected from a list of qualified applicants to serve the remaining term of the school year.

Qualifications for Application

1. The student representative(s) must be in grades 11 and 12 during their term as the student representative(s).
2. The student representative(s) must be in proper academic standing equivalent for participation in athletics or other student activities and maintain proper academic standing throughout his or her term.
3. The student representative(s) will be expected to maintain personal standards of behavior appropriate to participate in student activities.
4. The student representative(s) must be willing to convey student opinions to the Board of Directors and report Board deliberations and actions to the student body.

Application Process

1. Students will submit a complete Student Representative Application to the Richland School District Board of Directors' selection committee.
2. Students must obtain approval signatures from their parents and respective High School principal.

3. Students must submit two (2) recommendation letters, at least one from a District teacher or administrator.
4. Selected applicants will be interviewed by two School Board Directors, the Superintendent, a member of the Parent Advisory group, and the current Student Representatives (student representatives on interview team to begin in 2023/2024). The selection committee will recommend three student representative finalists to the Board of Directors for final approval.
5. The decision by the Board will be final. There is no right to appeal the decision.

Removal

1. The student representatives serve at the discretion of the Board.
2. The Board may remove the student representatives for failure to fulfill his or her duties, for failure to maintain academic standards, or for behaviors that the Board deems unacceptable as a member of the Board or embarrassing to the District.
3. Absence of the student representative from four consecutive regular meetings, unless on account of sickness, shall be sufficient cause for the student representee to be removed.

Responsibilities of the Student Representative

The student representatives will:

1. Adhere to all the rules and regulations pertaining to Board members as written in policy.
2. Attend all regular Board meetings, which occur while school is in session. Since regular Board meetings occur during the evening hours of a school night, the Board may grant permission for the student representative to leave a meeting before the conclusion of the student report has been given. Regular Board meetings are held on the second and fourth Tuesday of every month at 6:30 p.m. in the Board Room at the Teaching, Learning & Administration Center (TLAC) located at 6972 Keene Road, in West Richland. The student representative will request that absences be excused by the Board when the student representative is unable to attend. Absence of the student representative from four consecutive regular meetings, unless on account of sickness, shall be sufficient cause for the student representative's position to be terminated.
3. Dress appropriately for Board meetings.
4. Attend special meetings or workshop sessions if requested, excluding Executive Sessions.
5. Review the Board packet and reading materials prior to all regular Board meetings.
6. Participate in the discussion at regular, open meetings of the Board when applicable. However, the student representative may not make any motions or vote.
7. Provide reports to the Board during the agenda item titled "Student Representative Report." The reports may include student activities, topics, and concerns.
8. Students will abide by the school Code of Conduct.
9. Report Board deliberations and actions to the various Student Councils throughout the School District as applicable.
10. Assist with the onboarding of new student representative(s)
11. Participate in Board training sessions, when invited, such as the WSSDA Annual Conference and Legislative Assembly. When these sessions occur on school days, student representatives will follow the established, prearranged absence procedures at the high school.
12. At least one student representative will attend the Superintendent's student advisory group meetings to gain additional student insight and network with fellow peers.
13. Student representatives are expected to actively engage with fellow students and student organizations throughout the District, as time allows, to establish a continuity of communication between the students we serve and the Board.

Responsibilities of the Superintendent and the Board of Directors

The Board of Directors will:

1. Select and appoint up to two High School students as the representatives to the School Board.
2. Meet with the student representative(s) at the beginning of the school year to review expectations, responsibilities, and participation.
3. Meet with the student representative(s) quarterly to assess their experience and plan for future activities.

RSD #400

Adopted: June 14, 2022