

# Salinas Union High School District

## **STUDENT BOARD MEMBERS**

In order to enhance communication and collaboration between the Board of Trustees 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)

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

### **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 Members**

The Leadership Class of each regular middle and high school and the student council at Mt. Toro, under the direction of the Director of Student Activities, shall appoint or allow the election of a student representative to the Board of Trustees. The student representative shall serve for one year from July 1 through June 30. A representative may seek reappointment or reelection. 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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### **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 sessions. (Education Code 35012)

The student representative is:

1. Obligated to represent all public school students insofar as reasonably possible to do so
2. Expected to refrain from using the position as a forum to promote individual or non-representative opinions or projects
3. Encouraged to report regularly back to his/her high school as requested regarding the meetings of the Governing Board
4. Urged to express opinions on the issues confronting the Board and particularly on educational measures that will affect the students at their respective schools
5. To receive an agenda prior to the Board meeting. Confidential items, closed session items and salary negotiations will be excluded from their packets
6. To be given, upon request, the opportunity to review agenda items with an administrator prior to each meeting
7. Requested to attend High School Council meetings

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 other 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)

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

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35012)

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)

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 Member Training**

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 leadership skills and their Board responsibilities.

The Superintendent or designee may periodically provide information to student Board member candidates to give them an understanding of the position. Once chosen 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.

**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 out the term of the 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 Student Board Member 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.

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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)

### **Purpose**

The purpose of the student representatives to the Board is to:

1. Improve communication between the Board and the District's middle and high school students
2. Provide the Board with an opportunity to receive student opinions on matters that directly affect students
3. Provide increased student understanding of the democratic process
4. Increase the opportunities for responsible student participation in governance
5. Increase student awareness and understanding of the operation of and problems faced by the School District

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