



Lawrence Public Schools

Policy

Section J: Students

JIB

Subject: Student Involvement in Decision Making

Policy Statement

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In order to provide for the active involvement of students in their education and to effectively provide representation of the district's high school students on district level governing bodies, the following frameworks have been established:

District Governing Body:

The district's governing body has oversight for the district's policies, budget, and school year calendar, and is responsible for hiring and evaluating the school superintendent.

1. One student representative from the eleventh or twelfth grade population will be appointed to a non-voting seat on the district's governing body.
2. The appointment shall be made within the first 30 calendar days of school or, if the seat is vacated during the school year, within 30 calendar days of the period in which the student seat is vacated.
 - a. The appointment shall be made following a recommendation process in which school leaders from schools and programs with eleventh and twelfth grades provide up to two candidates for consideration, to include a brief biography on each student and their confirmed commitment to the meeting schedule.
 - b. A subcommittee of the governing body will review recommendations and vote on a selection.
3. The selected student will serve a one-year term, or in the event that s/he is a senior, until the end of the school year.

Superintendent's Student Cabinet:

The Superintendent's Student Cabinet (SSC) is comprised of a body of student leaders representing their respective high schools and programs, which serves as the collective voice of students, grades 9-12, to the superintendent of schools. Cabinet members problem solve with the district's leader, offer their perspectives on education policies and procedures, as well as inform their respective schools and programs about relevant citywide school issues.

1. The superintendent will convene and meet regularly with a representative group of high school students. The cabinet will have representation from each school and program in the district.
2. The position of SSC member will be elected, ideally included in student government elections at each school or program.



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3. At the middle school level, the superintendent may expand on the SSA model, schedule opportunities to connect with middle school student governments, or create another means for similar input and feedback.

District level councils:

Collaborative, stakeholder councils exist for multiple reasons including, but not limited to, network building, education, and problem solving.

1. Student participation should be encouraged and actively pursued in all district level councils, ensuring their voice is included with those of parents, educators and school leaders in all cross-stakeholder group dialogues.

Student government:

School-based student governments ensure opportunities for students to contribute to their school's climate and culture, raise issues of concern, and make recommendations to enhance their community.

1. Each high school or program will host annual elections to convene and maintain a student government. Elected students will hold annual terms, and students may be re-elected to positions for up to two years.
2. While a formal structure that includes a president, vice president, secretary and treasurer are strongly encouraged, schools may use discretion to develop another democratic structure that meets the needs of its student population.
3. Student government should convene monthly during the school year, to begin no later than 40 school days after the first day of school. An elective process must take place prior to that time.
4. Student government must provide opportunities throughout the school year for the student body to present to it suggestions or issues for consideration, as well as provide updates on said suggestions or issues.
5. A school-based advisor must be assigned to the student government body and the student government may also request to meet with the school leader(s) at least quarterly.
6. While student government is required at the high school level, nothing in this policy should preclude the formation of student governments at other grade levels.



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Student voice:

In addition to formal representation on school based and district-wide entities, schools will develop and/or identify opportunities for student voice and choice at the classroom level, in afterschool programs, at the team level and in extra-curricular activities, with school leaders providing opportunities to build capacity to foster and support such opportunities.

Similarly, plans for Report Card conferences should consider appropriate incorporation of student voices. At the upper grade levels, this may include student-led conferences.

Students in middle and high school must be able to request time with a teacher to discuss their academic, safety or other related needs.

Building Capacity:

The district will commit to annual training, coaching or mentoring for students serving in leadership capacities in order to maximize their contributions.

The district will also provide professional development for schools to build their capacity to expand student voice and choice in schools and classrooms.

First Reading: 6/12/2019

Second Reading:

Adoption: 8/12/19

Proposed Reconsideration: