



Responsible Office: Office of the Chief of Staff

BOARD POLICY 5350

STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL and STUDENT LEADERSHIP

PURPOSE

The Board of Trustees (“Board”) believes that perspectives from students should be solicited related to educational decisions being made by the Washoe County School District (“District”). Consequently, the Board, through this 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 programs of student leadership, student government and similar activities.

POLICY

1. Guiding Principles

- a. The Board and Superintendent support the use of organized means of student input through the use of a Student Representative to the Board of Trustees, Student Advisory Council to the Superintendent, and site-based student leadership, student government, and similar activities.
 - i. Student leadership, as used in this policy, 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, staff and parents/guardians for the benefit of the District, the school(s) and students. It includes Student Leadership as a curricular opportunity and Student Council/Government.
- b. 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.
- c. Leadership initiative opportunities allow an outlet for student members to:

- i. Provide student perspectives on education policy issues by representing the student body of the 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;
 - vi. Allow students to make a positive contribution to the school environment.
- d. The District's commitment to student engagement initiatives is established through Board Policy 5300, Student Voice.

2. Guiding Practices

a. Student Representative to the Board of Trustees

- i. The Board shall annually appoint a student to sit as a non-voting, ex-officio member on the Board of Trustees for a one-year term.
- ii. The Student Representative to the Board shall, during his/her term:
 - 1. Serve as the chairperson of the Student Advisory Council of the Superintendent. The selection process shall be established through Administrative Regulation 5351, Student Advisory Council to the Superintendent.
 - 2. Maintain the same qualifications established by the District for students to participate in extra-curricular activities.
 - 3. Attend all public portions of 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.
- iii. The specific duties of the student representative may include:

1. Attendance at all regular meetings of the Board of Trustees; and, upon invitation by the Board President, special meetings and work sessions of the Board of Trustees;
 2. Read and review all materials prior to Board meetings;
 3. Be prepared to fully participate in all discussions at Board meetings;
 4. When necessary and appropriate, provide brief updates to the Board about matters related to the Student Advisory Council of the Superintendent and District students;
 5. Maintain confidentiality; and
 6. Note whenever there may be a conflict of interest on an action item.
- b. Student Advisory Council to the Superintendent (“Council”)
- i. The Superintendent shall establish the Council for the purpose of soliciting student input and ideas about key issues.
 - ii. Meetings of the Council shall be student driven. Council meetings shall be facilitated procedurally by the Office of the Chief of Staff.
 - iii. Specific Council operating procedures shall be established through Administrative Regulation 5351, Student Advisory Council to the Superintendent. Those procedures shall include:
 1. Membership. Members will represent all of the students in the District and their respective schools, with each high school principal selecting two students to serve on the council
 2. Eligibility. Members must maintain the same qualifications established by the District for students to participate in extra-curricular activities.
 3. 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.

4. Input and Feedback. The manner through which the Council shall provide input to the Superintendent and other District leadership.
- c. Student Leadership
 - i. 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.
 - ii. Student leadership programs can play a positive role on the school campus in ways which include but are not limited to:
 1. Supporting a positive school culture by encouraging student participation in assemblies, clubs/organizations, and other extra-curricular activities.
 2. Establishing programs and initiatives that promote student health and safe choices such as healthy choices, campus safety, and anti-bullying and suicide prevention.
 3. Promoting 21st century workforce initiatives by promoting peer tutoring programs, student leadership opportunities, and the link between feeder schools and college/career days.

DESIRED OUTCOMES

1. Through this policy:
 - a. Students will be afforded additional opportunities to engage in decision and policy making discussions at the highest levels of the District.
 - b. Students will feel valued in expressing their views and opinions and valued as part of the whole school community.

IMPLEMENTATION GUIDELINES & ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS

1. This 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

REVIEW AND REPORTING

- 1. This document shall be reviewed as part of the bi-annual review and reporting process, following each regular session of the Nevada Legislature. The Board of Trustees shall receive notification of any required changes to the policy as well as an audit of the accompanying governing documents.
- 2. The Superintendent shall direct staff to create and periodically review regulations and procedures necessary to implement this policy.

REVISION HISTORY

Date	Revision	Modification
6/06/2017	1.0	Adopted: merges deleted Board Policy 5041, Student Advisory Board to the Board of Trustees