

DARIEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Darien, CT

SERIES 9200: ORGANIZATION OF THE BOARD
Policy 9280

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES ON THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

The Darien Board of Education recognizes the importance of maintaining open communication with the student body. Student Representatives on the Board of Education encourages student involvement in district governance; helps the Board gain greater insight into student activities and student concerns; increases communication; informs decision-making; and provides greater awareness and understanding of mutual issues. In an effort to improve this communication, the Board supports seating two student from Darien High School to serve in a nonvoting capacity on the Darien Board of Education.

The representatives in attendance will be seated at the Board table at each Board of Education meeting. Student opinion will be solicited to give added dimension to the Board's decision-making process.

The following procedures will be observed for the seating of the student representatives:

1. Student representatives will come from the junior and senior class at Darien High School. One student shall be a member of the junior class and one student shall be members of the senior class.
2. After the initial year of implementation, the term of office for the two representatives shall be for two years. The student from the senior class serves for one year in the initial year.
3. Students interested in serving as a Board of Education representative must submit an application and participate in the selection process in accordance with the process developed by the high school administration.
4. Any junior or senior in good standing and who completes the application will be considered eligible. ***Notwithstanding the forgoing, children of current members of the Board of Education are not eligible to become a student representative.*** All eligible students will be interviewed by members of the high school administration. The two finalists will be interviewed by the Superintendent.
5. The chosen representatives shall be given an orientation session by the Superintendent and the Board Chair or his/her designee.
6. The student representatives will provide updates to the Board at the start of each meeting.
7. The student representatives are not members of subcommittees.
8. The student representatives will participate in student government and serve as liaisons between the student body and the Board.
9. The Board of Education and the Superintendent reserve the right to dismiss a student representative due to an academic issue, poor attendance at Board meetings or at school, disciplinary issues, or other actions that in the opinion of the Board demean the position of student representative and call for the selection of a new member.
10. At least one student representative should be present at each regular meeting of the Board of Education. If this is not possible, the representatives must advise the Principal and the Superintendent's office in advance of the meeting.

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11. On occasion, student representatives may be excused early from meetings.
12. Student representatives shall:
 - a. Be expected to attend all regularly scheduled Board meetings;
 - b. Receive copies of all regular meeting agendas, minutes and other pertinent publications, excluding executive session minutes and associated materials, when made available to the Board members.
 - c. Be expected to attend all the Board of Education meetings and be representative of the collective voice of the student body of the district.
13. Student representative shall not:
 - a. Be able to cast an official vote on any motion or resolution
 - b. Be allowed to attend executive sessions, negotiation sessions or personnel portions of the regular or special meetings of the Board of Education.
14. Names and contact information of student representatives will be posted on the District web site and made known in each of the schools after selections have been made.
15. Only those privileges and powers enumerated previously shall be regarded specifically as such; any and all other powers and privileges that might be deemed appropriate for the student representatives shall be decided upon by the Board of Education.

ADOPTED: September 28, 2021