

Bylaws of the Board

Student Representation/Participation on the Board

It is the policy of the New London Board of Education to encourage participation of secondary school students as nonvoting student representatives to the Board of Education. The Board of Education believes it is important and recognizes the value of having student representatives to the Board for input into decisions which affect all students.

The purpose of this participation is to help the Board of Education gain greater insight into student activities, programs, and needs; to encourage student involvement in school district governance activities; to provide greater awareness and understanding of mutual issues among community, school staff and students; to provide for the active involvement of students in their education; to foster inquiry whereby students may freely express their views and listen to and evaluate the opinions of others.

1. Student representation on the Board of Education is open to all students in grades 9, 10, 11 and 12, not to exceed two sitting members and one alternate.
2. The New London High School Student Council shall designate a student to attend each Board meeting by the second business meeting in January.
 - A student's academic achievement or disciplinary record shall not exclude them from participating as a Board Representative nominee. In fact, students who have had challenges in their school experience are encouraged to participate.
 - Nominations shall be solicited from global youth organizations and clubs to include but not be limited to: New London High School Multicultural club, NAACP, FRESH New London, Hearing Youth Voices, Writers' Block, STEPS, and New London Youth Affairs, and then voted on by the Student Council as a whole.
3. Student representatives will participate in all regular meetings of the Board of Education and can be appointed to committees of the Board of Education at the discretion of the Board President. Students however will not count towards the quorum of business meetings of the Board of Education.
4. Student representatives will receive all regular meeting agendas, minutes, and other pertinent information, excluding executive session minutes/correspondence or other privileged information.
5. Student representatives will not participate in school board meetings from which the general public is excluded including executive sessions, negotiation sessions, or personnel portions of regular meetings of the Board of Education.

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Student Representation/Participation on the Board (continued)

6. Student representatives will be given an opportunity to speak during the portion of the agenda devoted to committee reports and at any other time. They may submit reports or studies and make requests to the Board for consideration. At least one week prior to a Board of Education meeting, a student representative may ask the Superintendent of Schools or the Board President to consider placing a specific item on an agenda. The Superintendent will notify the student representatives one week prior to a meeting if the Board wishes to have student input given on a specific agenda item. While the Board of Education looks for student input and discussion during business meetings, student representatives will not have the ability to vote on business items. They will however, have the ability to vote during committee meetings.
7. In a manner approved by the high school administration, the student representative will communicate with the entire student body following each Board meeting to keep all students informed of pertinent issues before the school board and to obtain input.
8. Student representative are ambassadors of New London Public Schools and shall conduct themselves accordingly.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

9-203 Number and term of members of boards of education.

Bylaw adopted by the Board: February 10, 2005

NEW LONDON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
New London, Connecticut

Bylaw revised by the Board: March 29, 2018
June 10, 2021
December 9, 2024