

BYLAWS OF THE ROCHESTER CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT STUDENT LEADERSHIP CONGRESS

Article 1: Name

The official name of this organization shall be the **Rochester City School District Student Leadership Congress** referred in brief as the Student Leadership Congress or SLC.

Article 2: Purpose

Mission Statement

The Rochester City School District Student Leadership Congress develops leaders who positively impact our schools and communities. The SLC is the voice which empowers the student body to express their opinions and ideas regarding educational services and ensures that students are included in decision and policy making that impacts their lives and educational experiences.

Vision

SLC members from the Rochester City School District provide positive leadership, powerful voice, and outstanding service to the Rochester City School District and community. They work with the student body, District administration, the Board of Education, and the Rochester community to foster positive social and academic outcomes for RCSD students.

The purpose of this organization shall be to:

1. Represent his/her school at SLC meetings and report back to his/her respective school
2. Attend/host weekly meetings at their school in cooperation with the school's student government body and:
 - Encourage students to bring concerns to their school student government (If no student government exists in the building, the SLC member will strive to create one);
3. Provide a communication link with students, faculty, and RCSD administration by:
 - Representing students' concerns before the administration and RCSD Board of Education to find resolution;
 - Keeping his/her school informed about District, school, and community resources and opportunities;
4. Strive to create a supportive, collaborative, positive social community within and outside the school;

5. Strive to create a rigorous educational environment that benefits all high school students;
6. Advise the School Based Planning Teams and the Board of Education as part of decision-making processes;
7. Receive valuable training and experience including public speaking, leadership, political know-how, event planning, and community organizing skills;
8. Work on other policies and projects that SLC develops during the year on such things as: service projects, school equity, racial equity, civic responsibility, student rights and responsibilities, school discipline and climate, transportation, student-to-teacher relationships, student government policy, Board policies, and RCSD budget;
9. Encourage personal responsibility among high school students towards building a positive school community;
10. Exemplify a positive standard for students on all campuses.

All our members play a special part in ensuring that constituencies are served efficiently and effectively and act as the ultimate representative of the views of the student population by instituting and pursuing policies of interest to the student body.

Article 3: Membership Qualifications

Student Leadership Congress shall consist of: President, Vice President, Secretary and Social Media Coordinator.

RCSD SLC Advisors shall consist of: Lead advisor will be RCSD Central Office staff member (preferably Director of Youth Engagement) and an RCSD staff advisor from each high school.

1. All members of the SLC must be registered full-time students of Rochester City School District grades 9 - 12.
2. All members will apply and be reviewed by SLC advisors and SLC leadership.
3. All members must be in good academic standing, maintain good attendance, and citizenship.
4. The SLC Advisor(s) will have final discretion regarding membership or retention of membership for any elected position. Lead SLC advisor will make all final decisions after deliberation with all advisors.

Article 4: Nominations and Elections

1. **President** for the next school year will be put to a vote in June. Eligible candidates must be a rising junior or senior and have been a member of SLC with at least one year prior service. Candidates will present their campaign in a 5 minute presentation to the SLC members and advisors. Voting will then take place by the SLC membership. If SLC members are unable to attend, they will have the opportunity to vote online. The candidate with the majority of votes will become the president for the upcoming school year. In the event of a tie, SLC Advisors will vote to break that tie. The President must be willing to put in planning time over the summer with SLC advisors. A vote for President will take place before the vote for vice president, allowing for any presidential candidate who does not win, to have the opportunity to run for vice president.

2. **Vice President** for the next school year will be put to a vote in June. Candidates will present their campaign in a 3 minute presentation to the SLC members and advisors. Voting will then take place by the SLC membership. If SLC members are unable to attend, they will have the opportunity to vote online. The candidate with the majority of votes will become the vice president for the upcoming school year. In the event of a tie, SLC Advisors will vote to break that tie. Vice president must be willing to put in some planning time over the summer with SLC advisors.

3. **Secretary and Social Media Influencer** will be voted into office the first week of October. Any member is eligible for this role. Interested candidates will present their campaign in a 3-minute presentation. Voting for each position will then take place by the SLC membership. SLC Advisors will vote in the case of a tie. Candidates with the majority of votes in each category will become secretary and social media coordinator.

4. All procedures for nominations and elections will be implemented by the SLC Advisor(s).

5. The term of office for all SLC positions will be the duration of the current school year they have been selected to represent. During that time, they will represent all RCSD high school students. President and vice president will run from July 1 until the end of June. Secretary and social media coordinator will run from October to the end of June.

6. If a student withdraws, leaves the District or is removed for any reason before their term of office begins, an alternate will be selected by the SLC advisors as a replacement. If the president leaves office for any reason, the vice president shall have first choice for the position.

Article 5: Student Leadership Congress Meetings

1. The SLC shall hold general meetings a minimum of once a month and additional meetings held as needed.
2. A tentative calendar will be created by the SLC Faculty Advisor(s) and the President of SLC and vice president to facilitate organization before the start of each new year. SLC regular meeting dates must be finalized by April 1 so meetings can appear on the RCSD School Calendar. SLC reserves the right to hold occasional meetings as the need arises both in person and virtually.
3. In the case of calendar conflicts, the SLC Faculty Advisor(s) and President of SLC will create the new meeting schedule.
4. Each meeting will be supervised by at least one SLC advisor.
5. SLC will invite RCSD Superintendent to their meetings a minimum 2-4 times per year, and BOE President and members 1-2 times per year.

Article 6: Roles and Duties

The duties and responsibilities for the following SLC officers include:

Duties of President:

- Will act as the Student Representative to the Board and shall be entitled to sit with Board members at all public meetings and hearings of the Board under Article 7 of the Public Officers Law and may participate in all Board hearings and meetings, other Board activities, and responsibilities at the discretion of the Board. The Student Representative shall not be allowed to attend executive sessions or any other meetings or hearings not open to the public.
- Participation by the Student Representative shall mean the right to address issues before the Board, the right to cast an advisory vote immediately prior to the formal vote on those issues, and the right to propose motions during committee meetings and work sessions. The Student Representative shall not formally move or second any motion.
 - An advisory vote will be cast after the Board has made and seconded a formal motion, and concluded its discussion, but before the Board's official vote.
- Serve as primary spokesperson for and representative of the SLC as well as the RCSD student body.
- Bear primary responsibility for the execution of all SLC directives.
- Assist SLC advisors chair and conduct all meetings.

- Call and plan meetings as needed.
- Maintain relationships with RCSD faculty, administration, and Board of Education.
- Available and willing to meet with students, RCSD staff and community leaders regarding matters that impact RCSD students.
- Maintain good academic status and citizenship with RCSD.
- Communicate with SLC Advisors weekly to stay abreast of potential SLC activities and requests.
- Write the monthly SLC report for the Board.
- Present the monthly SLC report to the Board.

Vice-President: The vice president will fulfill the duties of the president in his/her absence; be the student representative in attending Board meetings and other Board functions when the president is unable; assist in the fulfillment of duties as assigned by the president; be responsible for communication between the student body and the SLC. The vice president will also assist the secretary in keeping attendance at all meetings and events sponsored by the SLC.

Secretary: The secretary shall be the primary administrator of the SLC, keep records of all actions taken by the SLC, and maintain minutes of all SLC meetings. The secretary shall maintain electronic mailing lists and assist with communication with the SLC members. Secretary shall share all notes as soon as possible with the SLC president.

Social Media Coordinator: The social media coordinator will help SLC advisors maintain the SLC website, create an SLC Facebook page, maintain and update all promotional pieces about the work of SLC all in compliance with RCSD policies.

SLC Lead Advisor: The SLC lead advisor will be a representative from RCSD Central Office administration and any other staff identified by him/her. SLC Lead advisor will: coordinate all budget related items, hold advisors' meetings, schedule spaces for meetings and events, plan professional learning opportunities for students and advisors, recruit additional SLC advisors from Central Office, school buildings and community

SLC Champion from each high school: One or two educators from each high school will be needed to be the liaison between their SLC students and the SLC lead advisor. **Ideally this educator would be the advisor for Student Government in that school.** SLC Champions will: help recruit possible members August - October, communicate

with students about upcoming SLC events and meetings, attend SLC meetings and events as possible, provide support and assistance for their students to participate in all SLC events and meetings, assist with the development and completion of the SLC Service project for individual school, and encourage SLC members to participate in student leadership opportunities in their building.

Article 7: Attendance

It is paramount that the SLC have as many members present at each meeting as possible. However, it is understood that circumstances out of members' control may warrant an occasional absence. If a member is going to be absent from any meetings, he or she needs to notify one of the SLC Advisors directly. If meetings are missed consistently without legitimate excuse within a year, the member shall be counseled by an SLC advisor.

Article 8: Possible Suspension or Removal from SLC

SLC members will be considered leaders within their school and should respect that standing. Members are expected to follow the basic rights and responsibilities of all students and the RCSD Code of Conduct. They are expected to conduct themselves in an orderly manner and to remember whom they are representing at all times. Failure to do so may require a possible suspension or removal from SLC.

Any out of school suspension will result in a conference with the student and SLC advisor (s) and a possible loss of office for any officers. This will be handled by the SLC lead Advisor.

Final decisions to remove a student from the SLC will be made by the SLC advisors.

Article 9: Amendments

The SLC Bylaws shall be reviewed in May of each year by the entire SLC team. All amendments must be presented to the RCSD Board of Education for approval.

Article 10: Budget

SLC members and advisors will advocate for the SLC budget to include items that are necessary for the operation of the organization, and allowable under law, and District regulations. This may include, but not be limited to:

- Transportation needs
- Refreshments for meetings/events and activities
- Service projects for each high school to benefit school and/or community
- Community Student Leadership Luncheon
- Speakers and trainers for some meetings/events

- Student expeditions with the learning objective to engage in government, civic responsibility, and service learning
- Such other items as the organizations may from time to time deem appropriate and necessary as is allowable under regulations and these bylaws

Article 11: Applicable Rules and Regulations

In addition to the standards established herein, it is understood that SLC operations shall at all times be conducted in accordance with the policies and regulations of the Rochester City School District, State Education Law and/or any other applicable law.