

BOARD BYLAWS

Student Board Members

The Governing Board recognizes the value of student perspectives in shaping policies and decisions impacting students and their school community. In order to enhance communication and collaboration between the Governing Board and the student body and to teach students the importance of civic involvement, the Governing Board of Central Unified School District shall include two student trustees from the District's high school.

Credit and Liability

To ensure inclusive and equitable student participation from the District's traditional and alternative high schools, the student body of the District's traditional high schools shall select one student, and the student body of the District's alternative high schools shall select one student, to serve as Student Board members of Governing Board.

Student Board members shall receive elective course credit for service as a Student Board member based on the number of equivalent daily instructional minutes for the Student Board member's services provided. (Education Code 35120)

Student Board member(s) shall be entitled to mileage reimbursement to the same extent as other members of the Governing Board but shall not receive monetary compensation for attendance at Board meetings. (Education Code 35012)

A Student Board member shall not be liable for any acts of the Board. (Education Code 35012)

For purposes of this Board Bylaw, "Governing Board" means the seven members of the Board elected or appointed to serve on the Board and are not students. "Student Board" members mean the high school students selected by the student body of the District's high school students or appointed by the Governing Board to fill a vacancy.

Student Board Member Positions Based on Petition

When the Governing Board does not include a Student Board member, high school students may submit a petition to the Governing Board requesting the creation of at least one Student Board member position. (Education Code 35012)

To qualify for Governing Board consideration, the petition shall contain the signatures of at least 500 students or 10 percent of the number of students regularly enrolled in district high schools, whichever is less. (Education Code 35012)

Within 60 days of receiving a student petition, or at the next regularly scheduled Board meeting if no meeting is held within those 60 days, the Board shall adopt a Board Bylaw or amend this Board Bylaw to create at least one student Board member position on the Board. (Education Code 35012)

Student Board Member Eligibility, Selection, and Term

Each Student Board member shall be enrolled in a District High School and shall be chosen by the students enrolled in the District's high schools in accordance with procedures prescribed by the Board. (Education Code 35012)

In the event a vacancy occurs during the terms of a Student Board member, the Governing Board may appoint a Student Board member based on the selection process established by the Governing Board.

Role and Responsibilities of Student Board Members

Student Board member(s) shall have the right to attend all Governing Board meetings except closed sessions. (Education Code 35012) Student Board member(s) shall be invited to attend staff briefings or be provided with a separate staff briefing within the same timeframe as the briefing of other Board members. Additionally, the Student Board Members shall receive all materials given to Board members by the District between meetings, except for materials that pertain to closed session items or confidential student information, at the same time they are presented to other Board members. (Education Code 35012)

Student Board member(s) are members of the Governing Board and shall be recognized as full member(s) of the Governing Board, shall be seated with other members of the Board, and shall be permitted to participate in discussions during meetings. (Education Code 35012)

Student Board member(s) shall be allowed to cast a provisional vote on all matters except those subject to closed session discussion. Provisional voting means a formal expression of opinion that is recorded in the minutes and cast before the official vote of the Board. Provisional votes shall not affect the final numerical outcome of a vote. (Education Code 35012)

Student Board member(s) may make motions that may be acted upon by the Governing Board, except on matters dealing with employer-employee relations pursuant to Government Code sections 3540-3549.3. (Education Code 35012)

Student Board members shall be appointed to subcommittees of the Governing Board in the same manner as other Governing Board members and shall be made aware of the time commitment required to participate in subcommittee meetings and work and of the right to decline an appointment. The availability of all subcommittee members, including the availability of Student Board members, may be considered when scheduling subcommittee meetings. (Education Code 35012)

Student Board members shall not be considered members of a legislative body for purposes of the Brown Act. (Education Code 35012)

Student Board members shall not be counted in determining the vote required to carry any measure before the Governing Board or whether a quorum is established under the Brown Act for purposes of a meeting.

Student Board members shall be invited to attend functions of the Governing Board, such as forums, meetings with students and parents/guardians, and other general assemblies. (Education Code 35012)

Student Board Member Training

The Superintendent or designee in consultation with the Board President of the Governing Board may, at District expense, provide learning opportunities to Student Board members through trainings, workshops, and conferences, such as those offered by the California School Boards Association and other organizations, to enhance their knowledge, understanding, and performance of leadership skills and their Student Board responsibilities.

The Superintendent or designee may periodically provide information to Student Board member candidates to give them an understanding of the position. Once chosen or appointed, incoming Student Board members shall be provided an orientation designed to build knowledge of the District and an understanding of the responsibilities and expectations of the position. The Board President of the Governing Board or their designee shall assist with Student Board member orientations.

Alternate Student Board Member

If the Governing Board determines that the Student Board member's duties are not being fulfilled, the Governing Board may appoint another student to serve out the term of the Student Board member. If an alternate Student Board member is appointed, the Governing Board shall suspend the prior Student Board member's rights and privileges related to service on the Governing Board. (Education Code 35012)

Elimination of Student Board Member Position

Once established, the Student Board member position shall continue to exist until the Governing Board, by majority vote of all voting Governing Board members, approves a motion to eliminate the position. Such a motion shall be listed as a public agenda item for a Board meeting prior to the motion being voted upon. (Education Code 35012)

Before eliminating Student Board members, the Governing Board shall discuss during the public meeting the pros and cons of Student Board members participation, and shall make findings that it is in the best interest of the Student Board members and the District to eliminate the Student Board members from the Governing Board.

Bylaw adopted: 1/28/2025

Bylaw revised: 9/23/2025