

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION

Bylaws of the Board

BB 9150 (a)

STUDENT TRUSTEE

In order to enhance communication and collaboration between the Santa Cruz County Board of Education (“the County Board”) and the student body, and to teach students the importance of civic involvement, the Board supports the participation of high school students in County Board governance.

Student trustees may, at the County Board's discretion, receive elective course credit for service as a student trustee based on the number of equivalent daily instructional minutes for the student trustee's services provided. (Education Code 1000, 35120)

Student trustee(s) shall be entitled to be reimbursed for mileage to the same extent as other members of the County Board but shall not receive monetary compensation for attendance at Board meetings. (Education Code 1000)

A student trustee shall not be liable for any acts of the County Board. (Education Code 1000)

Petition

High school students may submit a petition to the County Board requesting the appointment of at least one student trustee. (Education Code 1000)

To qualify for Board consideration, the petition for student representation shall contain the signatures of at least 500 students or 10 percent of the number of students regularly enrolled in high schools that are under the jurisdiction of the county board, whichever is less. (Education Code 1000)

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 County Board shall order the inclusion of at least one student trustee position on the County Board. (Education Code 1000)

Choosing or Selecting Student Trustees

Student trustees shall be chosen by students enrolled in the high school(s) within the county in accordance with procedures prescribed by the County Board.

If the student trustee position is established based on a petition received from the high school(s) under the County Board's jurisdiction, any student chosen shall be enrolled in a high school that is under the jurisdiction of the County Board, with preference given to any student in a school operated by the County Office of Education (Education Code 1000)

Student Trustees (Continued)

BB 9150 (b)

If the County Board does not receive a petition from the high school(s) under its jurisdiction, the County Board may select a student who is enrolled in a high school under the jurisdiction of a school district within the county to serve as a student trustee. (Education Code 1000)

The term of student trustee(s) shall be one year, commencing on July 1. However, the County Board may adjust the term of a student trustee if a vacancy occurs or in order to provide more students an opportunity to serve on the County Board. (Education Code 1000)

Role and Responsibilities of Student Trustees

Student trustees shall not be considered members of a legislative body for purposes of the Brown Act. (Education Code 1000)

A student trustee shall not be counted in determining the vote required to carry any measure before the County Board or whether a quorum is in attendance at a County Board meeting.

Student trustee(s) shall have the right to attend all Board meetings except closed sessions. (Education Code 1000)

All materials presented to County Board members, except those related to closed sessions, shall be presented to student trustees at the same time they are presented to other County Board members. Student trustee(s) shall also be invited to attend staff briefings, or be provided with a separate staff briefing, within the same timeframe as the briefing of other County Board members. In addition, all materials given to County Board members between meetings, except for materials that pertain to closed session items, shall be distributed to student trustees. (Education Code 1000)

Student trustee(s) shall be recognized at Board meetings as full member(s), shall be seated with other members of the County Board, and shall be allowed to participate in questioning witnesses and discussing issues. (Education Code 1000)

Student trustee(s) shall be allowed to cast preferential votes on all matters except those subject to closed session discussion. Preferential voting means a formal expression of opinion that is recorded in the minutes and cast before the official vote of the County Board. Preferential votes shall not affect the final numerical outcome of a vote. (Education Code 1000)

Student trustee(s) may make motions that may be acted upon by the County Board, except on matters dealing with employer-employee relations pursuant to Government Code 3540-3549.3. (Education Code 1000)

Student trustees shall be appointed to subcommittees of the County Board in the same manner as other County 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.

Student Trustees (Continued)

BB 9150 (c)

The availability of all subcommittee members, including the availability of student trustees, may be considered when scheduling subcommittee meetings. (Education Code 1000)

Student trustees shall be invited to attend functions of the County Board, such as forums, meetings with students and parents/guardians, and other general assemblies. (Education Code 1000)

Student Trustee Training

The County Board may provide learning opportunities to student trustees 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 Board responsibilities.

The County Board may periodically provide information to student trustee candidates to give them an understanding of the position. Once chosen or appointed, incoming student trustees shall be provided an orientation designed to build their knowledge and an understanding of the responsibilities and expectations of the position.

Students admitted as trustees shall be eligible for any County Office of Education administered County Office of Education Student Trustee Academy.

Subject to availability, the Board shall/may appoint a mentor to the student trustee.

Alternative Student Trustee

If the County Board determines that the student trustee's duties are not being fulfilled, the County Board may appoint another student to serve out the term of the student trustee. If an alternate student trustee is appointed, the County Board shall suspend the prior student trustee's rights and privileges related to service on the County Board. (Education Code 1000)

Elimination of Student Trustee Position

Once established, the student trustee position shall continue to exist until the County Board, by majority vote of all voting County Board members, approves a motion to eliminate the position. Such a motion shall be listed as a public agenda item for a County Board meeting prior to the motion being voted upon. (Education Code 1000)