

**BOARD OF EDUCATION OF BALTIMORE COUNTY**  
**Student Member Position Description**

**ROLE OF THE STUDENT MEMBER:**

The student member provides *an informed student viewpoint* to the Board of Education of Baltimore County. The student member must respect the diversity of students' points of view and develop a position that will be consistent with the best interest of all Baltimore County students.

The student member is an official member of the Board of Education and, by statute, has a partial vote. The student member votes on all issues except collective bargaining, school openings and closings, and boundaries. The student member is able to vote on capital and operating budget matters but is required to attend budget training.

**RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE STUDENT MEMBER:**

1. To be an informed participant and voter in Board discussions and actions. This is accomplished in part by reviewing and analyzing large packets of information provided prior to each Board meeting. Board packets typically include the following:
  - a. Agenda for the upcoming meeting.
  - b. Minutes of previous meetings.
  - c. Background information and recommendations for policy and program discussions and actions.
  - d. Resolutions/legislation.
  - e. Budget and personnel documents.

In addition, the Student Member must read additional information including articles, journals, and reports provided weekly to board members.

2. To develop a thorough understanding of current educational issues that directly impact Baltimore County's students and to share this information with students and student leaders throughout the county. This is accomplished by:
  - a. Serving as an Executive Board Member of the Baltimore County Student Councils (BCSC).
  - b. Attending monthly BCSC Executive Board meetings, General Assembly meetings, and other student leadership workshops/conferences.
  - c. Serving as a member of the Board of Selected Students.
  - d. Being accessible to hear the concerns of Baltimore County's diverse student population.
  - e. Serving as an Executive Board Member of the Maryland Association of Student Councils.
3. To attend and/or speak at various education and youth-related conferences and events.

4. To serve on Board selected committees.
5. To participate in the selection process of the incoming student board member.
6. To provide an orientation to the next student board member and share an end-of-the-year report summarizing key issues before the board and actions of the board during the studentmember's term of office for use by the incoming student board member.

#### **ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS:**

1. To attend bi-monthly Board of Education meetings held at the Greenwood Campus boardroom located within Building E.
2. To participate in the Board of Education of Baltimore County new member orientation.
3. To participate in various educational events as a representative of the Baltimore County Board of Education, including board recognition ceremonies, school groundbreakings, and new school openings.
4. To attend the annual Board of Education retreat.
5. To attend Baltimore County Student Councils Executive Board meetings, general assembly meetings and conferences to report on important educational issues and to seek student input on those issues.
6. To attend meetings of the Board of Selected Students.
7. To attend the Maryland Association of Boards of Education annual conference.

**Please note that these meetings will often occur in the evenings and on weekends.**

#### **CANDIDATE SELECTION:**

1. Each Baltimore County high school is to nominate up to two students for the position of Student Member of the Baltimore County Board of Education. Nominees submit application packets, which include an information page/resume, essay, and five letters of recommendation. An official school transcript with a copy of the most recent report card will be reviewed and a copy of these documents should be retained by the applicant.
2. Applications are screened by an application review committee and selected applicants will move onto the interview process. Applicants will be notified by email of this decision.

3. The interview committee will interview the top candidates and nominate selected candidates to move on as a finalist.
4. Selected candidates will video record up to a 3-minute speech for secondary students to view during their English Language Arts (ELA) classes or via the website. Secondary students will have an opportunity to submit questions for candidates and responses will be filmed. These responses will be available for viewing through ELA and Social studies classes and the website for students.
5. Voting will commence on the selected day via ELA and Social Studies classes. Students not enrolled in such classes will be provided the same opportunities to view speeches and submit questions at their home school. Students enrolled in grades 6 – 12 will be provided an opportunity to select their choice for Student Member.
6. The Baltimore County Student Council appoints the chosen nominee to serve as the Student Member of the Baltimore County Board of Education. The winner will be notified by phone and email.

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