

Policy Code: 1220 Student Board Members

The Edenton-Chowan Public Schools' Board of Education is committed to encouraging and facilitating the active participation of students in the administration of their own education. To this end, the board provides the opportunity for junior and senior students to become student members of the board for the following reasons:

- student members and their constituents are the recipients of educational services provided by the system;
- student members offer new and different perspectives;
- student members will help to keep the board focused on student success;
- student members will ask clarifying questions;
- student members will create a direct link from the discussions and decisions made by the board to the youth of our community;
- student members will involve other young adults in the research and discussions leading to board decisions;
- student members will advise the board of the views of their constituency;
- student members will assist with community support for system initiatives;
- student members will learn valuable skills for their future; and
- student members will add enthusiasm and value to board work.

A. Nature and Scope of Requirements

The student board member will represent the student body of the Edenton-Chowan Public School System to the board and the community. The student board member will work to increase the engagement and involvement of the student body in the educational affairs of the system.

1. The student board member will not have an official vote in board matters but will be entitled to make a position statement on any issue to be recorded in the meeting minutes.
2. The student board member will not participate in, have an unofficial vote on, or receive materials pertaining to confidential personnel and student records, legal matters, or any other confidential information.
3. The student board member will not participate in or attend closed sessions.

B. Eligibility and Term

The student board member must be a regularly attending student of a high school in Edenton-Chowan Public Schools. At a minimum, applicants for the position must have been enrolled in a Edenton-Chowan Public Schools high school from the first day of the school year in which they apply. Students who are related to a current elected board member are not eligible to apply. The student members must have a cumulative 3.0 grade point average at the time of the selection process to be an eligible candidate and must maintain a cumulative 3.0 grade point average during the tenure of the position. Student members will be selected by an application and interview process each school year. The student must be a sophomore to apply and will serve for two consecutive years during the student's junior and senior school years. As a senior, the student member will act as a mentor to the newly elected junior student member.

The term of each student member will begin during his or her sophomore school year after the vote of the board at the May board meeting and continue through the June board meeting of his or her senior year. The student appointed at the meeting will be provided board of education orientation and training throughout the subsequent month. The student will officially begin participation as a student member at the July regular board meeting.

C. Essential Job Functions

The student board member should attend all regular meetings of the board for a period of two years. As any member of the public, the student member may attend any board work-session, but will not function as member of the board.

The student board member may not make a motion or second a motion, but may participate in discussions with the board at regular meetings. The student member will receive all of the same materials, except those dealing with personnel, student records, legal matters, and other issues deemed not for public disclosure, as any other board member on an equivalent time schedule and should be prepared to comment from a student's perspective on issues before the board. In accordance with state law, only elected board members may participate in board official votes.

Prior to each board meeting the senior and junior student members will collect, share, and discuss material relevant for presentation. The senior student member will provide a brief report during each board meeting. This report may include, but is not limited to, information regarding student activities, student educational priorities, and requests from students, student councils and/or the student advisory committees that the board should consider. This report should be limited to five minutes.

The student board member will sit as an ex-officio member of the high school student government organization for the high school at which he/she attends.

The student member will meet periodically with the superintendent or superintendent's designee to discuss and plan board agenda items. The student member may not amend the agenda, but may call the board chairperson prior to the meeting with any agenda suggestions, clarifications or questions.

The student member will develop and implement communication channels with students regarding system issues, such as student TV/radio broadcasts, informal gatherings, email or print news briefs. At least twice each school year, the student member must meet with student representatives from the various high, middle and elementary schools of the system to discuss student concerns and recommendations regarding educational opportunities for students.

The student member may also serve as an ambassador for the board to community organizations.

D. Selection Process

The student board member will be selected using the following procedures.

1. Prior to the May board meeting, the superintendent and current student board members shall organize and facilitate the selection of the sophomore students to serve as the next student board members.
2. Community members, parents and students at the high school will be notified of the selection process and encouraged to nominate potential candidates. Candidates may be nominated by any community member, parent or student or be self-nominated.
3. Candidates must complete the student board member application and submit it to the superintendent prior to April 30th. Applications will be made available at the high school and the central office. Applications may be turned in directly to the superintendent or principal.
4. The applicant's parent or legal guardian must sign the application.
5. The student must include a letter of recommendation from a teacher, principal or counselor with the application.
6. The superintendent must verify grade point averages of all applicants.
7. Eligible applicants will make a presentation to the board in a public meeting. The board will convene into a closed session to interview the applicants and discuss their qualifications. The board will then vote in open session to select the student board member.

The board will strongly consider skills and knowledge in the following areas when evaluating candidates.

1. Enthusiasm and motivation for the experience and challenge of the position.
2. Experience in student leadership and/or community service.
3. Commitment to the duties and length of term of the position.
4. Public speaking skills that demonstrate the student's confidence and competence in front of an audience.
5. Writing skills that demonstrate the student's confidence and competence in writing succinctly.
6. Readiness to serve independently and be as self-directed as possible.
7. Ability to function as part of a collaborative team.
8. Broad perspective on student issues and the willingness to represent the entire student body.
9. Ability to take initiative and motivate other students to become interested in the governance of the educational system.

E. Replacement of a Student Board Member

In the event that a student board member is unable to fulfill the obligations of the position for any reason, the board will direct the superintendent to initiate a special selection process to replace that student.

The superintendent will develop additional administrative regulations relating to the selection and replacement process, requirements for eligibility, qualifications and responsibilities of the position.

Legal References: [G.S. 115C-36](#)

Cross References:

Adopted: March 1, 2022

Edenton-Chowan Schools