

Students Serving on Local School Boards

February 2009

(39 Responding State Associations)

State	Does your state have students serving on local school boards?		How are the student board members selected/elected?
	Yes	No	
Alaska	Yes		Appointed by boards.
Arizona	Yes		Depends on district, but it is usually the student body president of one of the high schools.
Arkansas	Yes		Some boards do this, and each one does it differently.
California	Yes		Some are elected; some are appointed.
Connecticut	Yes		Usually by the Principal.
Delaware	Yes		From the Student Council at the high school. Please note: Only two of our 19 school boards have student representation.
Florida	Yes*		Appointed by the school board.
Iowa	Yes		By the board.
Kansas	Yes		
Maryland	Yes		Varies from county to county. Generally, student representatives from each secondary school gather in a kind of mini-election convention and put forth three names for consideration by the boards/superintendents.
Massachusetts	Yes		Usually by the student government of the school.
Michigan	Yes		NR
Minnesota	Yes		Selected by the school board
New Jersey	Yes		Students serving in an advisory capacity are appointed for a one-year term. Students who are 18 years old or older and meet the voting requirements are elected for a three-year term.
New York	Yes		They can be officially elected if they are 18 years old and meet other minimum requirements (rare). Usually they are appointed as ex-officio representatives, typically with non-voting status. The selection of a student representative is a bit complicated. He/she can be identified by a variety of methods, must be recommended by the superintendent and ratified by a majority of the board. The student must be a senior who has attended a high school in the district for at least the last two years.
North Carolina	Yes		Varies. Most select the class president at the high schools.
Oregon	Yes		Each district decides. Most are appointed by the locally elected boards.
Pennsylvania	Yes		Appointment, election, student council president
South Carolina	Yes		
Tennessee	Yes		It varies from system to system.
Utah	Yes		Varies by district.

Does your state have students serving on local school boards?

State	Yes	No	How are the student board members selected/elected?
Vermont	Yes		There is no state requirement for this, but several boards have student representatives who are usually selected by their peers e.g. student council, etc.
Virginia	Yes		Through their respective high school.
Wisconsin	Yes		Appointed
Wyoming	Yes		Various ways -- apply to board, board selects, etc.
Alabama		No	
Georgia		No	
Idaho		No	
Indiana		No	
Louisiana		No	
Mississippi		No	
Missouri		No	
New Mexico		No	
North Dakota		No	
Ohio		No	
Oklahoma		No	
South Dakota		No	
Texas		No	
West Virginia		No	
	Yes = 25	No = 14	

*Florida - Seven of 67 school boards have student members.

**New Jersey - Students serving in advisory capacity have no voting representation. Students who are 18 and elected to the board may vote on anything that does not apply to their school.

State	Do the students have voting representation?		What is the term for student board members?	Do you offer a formal association for the students as part of your regular association?		Do you offer special training/seminar sessions for student board members?	
	Yes	No		Yes	No	Yes	No
Alaska		No	Varies from 1-2 years; based on board policy.	Yes		Yes	
Arizona		No	Depends on district but, usually the term of the student body president of one of the high schools.		No		No
Arkansas		No	It varies.		No		No
California	Yes*		One year		No	Yes	
Connecticut		No	1 year		No	Yes	
Delaware		No	1 year, usually.		No		No
Florida	Some do; some don't		1 year		No		No
Iowa		No	Usually one year		No		No
Kansas	NR	NR		NR	NR	NR	NR
Maryland	Some do; some don't		One year		No	Yes	
Massachusetts		No	Undefined by law. Usually one year at a time.	Yes		Yes	
Michigan		No	Varies		No	Yes	
Minnesota		No	Up to local board.		No		No
New Jersey	**See footnote.		One year for students serving in an advisory capacity; three years for students who are elected.		No		No
New York		No	One year.		No		No
North Carolina		No	One year -- most are just advisory groups to the board.		No		No
Oregon		No	One year		No		No
Pennsylvania		No	Generally, two years.	Yes		Yes	
South Carolina	NR	NR		NR	NR	NR	NR
Tennessee		No	Typically one year.		No		No
Utah		No	One Year		No		No

State	Do the students have voting representation?		What is the term for student board members?	Do you offer a formal association for the students as part of your regular association?		Do you offer special training/seminar sessions for student board members?	
	Yes	No		Yes	No	Yes	No
Vermont		No	Usually one year.		No		No
Virginia		No	One year	Yes		Yes	
Wisconsin		No	One year		No		No
Wyoming		No	One year		No		No
Alabama							
Georgia							
Idaho							
Indiana							
Louisiana							
Mississippi							
Missouri							
New Mexico							
North Dakota							
Ohio							
Oklahoma							
South Dakota							
Texas							
West Virginia							
Yes = 1 No = 19 Some do; some don't = 2 NR = 2				Yes = 4 No = 19 NR = 2		Yes = 8 No = 15 NR = 2	

NR= No Response

***CA - Has preferential voting. Students vote prior to board of directors to voice their opinion. Their vote does not affect final outcome.**

State	If yes, please describe:	Do the students pay annual "student association" fees?	
		Yes	No
Alaska	Two Youth Leadership Programs -- one during annual conference and another during Legislative Network program		No
Arizona			No
Arkansas			No
California	Special strand/sessions at our annual education conference -- just for student board members.		No
Connecticut	We try to host a workshop for them at our annual convention,		No
Delaware			No
Florida			No
Iowa			No
Kansas		NR	NR
Maryland	New member training -- 2 days; admission to academic courses.		No
Massachusetts	We have done student school committee member orientation when asked to do so.		No
Michigan	Secondary school principals through Honor Society group.		No
Minnesota			No
New Jersey		NR	NR
New York			No
North Carolina	We did have an ex-officio student travel with her board to one of our meetings.		No
Oregon	The administrators' association in Oregon provides a leadership conference at which districts are welcome to send student board members.		No
Pennsylvania	We have a student program at our annual conference that is attended by many student reps to boards.		No
South Carolina		NR	NR
Tennessee			No
Utah			No

State	If yes, please describe:	Do the students pay annual "student association" fees?	
		Yes	No
Vermont			No
Virginia	Special seminar sessions at annual conventions		No
Wisconsin			No
Wyoming			No
Alabama			
Georgia			
Idaho			
Indiana			
Louisiana			
Mississippi			
Missouri			
New Mexico			
North Dakota			
Ohio			
Oklahoma			
South Dakota			
Texas			
West Virginia			

Yes = 0 No = 22
NR=3

State	What educational opportunities does the state association offer to student board members beyond those listed previously?
Alaska	They are able to attend any of our regular programs with board approval.
Arizona	Same as other board members.
Arkansas	
California	None
Connecticut	None
Delaware	None
Florida	None
Iowa	None
Kansas	
Maryland	
Massachusetts	They are invited, without fee, to attend our state house "Day on the Hill."
Michigan	
Minnesota	Can participate in normal board training. We have student school board members speak at a workshop/breakout to regular school board members at our annual convention
New Jersey	
New York	None.
North Carolina	None.
Oregon	None
Pennsylvania	None
South Carolina	
Tennessee	We invite them to all board seminars/workshops, etc.
Utah	Invited to all state association events with their local board.

State	What educational opportunities does the state association offer to student board members beyond those listed previously?
Vermont	None. We should make clear that our association has resisted attempts to make student representation on boards a requirement. We oppose giving students voting status on boards, and we do not subscribe to the "out of the mouths of babes" model of school governance. We believe that student reps on local boards can fill useful advisory roles, but we believe that individual boards should decide whether to include students as advisory board members.
Virginia	Attendance at all VSBA conferences, networking of students at board meetings.
Wisconsin	
Wyoming	None, they can attend the annual conference or board training just like any other board member
Alabama	
Georgia	
Idaho	
Indiana	
Louisiana	
Mississippi	
Missouri	
New Mexico	
North Dakota	
Ohio	
Oklahoma	
South Dakota	
Texas	
West Virginia	