



Coachella Valley Unified School District

Student Trustees Selection Process

2026-27

"The practice of democracy is not passed down through our gene pool. It must be taught and learned anew by each generation of citizens." - Justice Sandra Day O'Connor.

INTRODUCTION

On November 7, 2019, the CVUSD School Board adopted Board Policy 9150: Student Board Trustees to enhance communication and engagement between the CVUSD Governing Board and the student body, providing students the opportunity to learn about the importance of civic engagement. The Board Policy was to lead to the participation of high school students in district governance as Student Trustees.

Student leadership at CVUSD is about motivating, influencing, facilitating, and guiding our CVUSD students to collaborate and advocate around the district vision through the lens of our student body. By serving on the School Board, Student Board Trustees will have the opportunity to further develop competencies in

- Critical Thinking
- Effective Communication
- Advanced Organization
- Creativity
- Compassion
- Community
- Scholarship
- Leadership

These competencies contribute to a graduate portrait of a successful CVUSD graduate who is college, career, and life-ready. The Student Trustee role extends that opportunity by empowering our students to take on leadership responsibility. One way to nurture our students' curiosity and interest in district governance is by engaging them in the policies and regulations guiding CVUSD.

PROCESS AND TIMELINE

Each of our comprehensive high schools will have a CVUSD School Board representative serving as a Student Trustee. Students interested in being considered for a student seat on the School Board will complete and submit an application to their school principal. Schools will select and submit one to two applicants to send to the Superintendent's Office. Board Members will interview finalists and selected students will be confirmed and seated by the School Board.

1. Student Applications are due to their Principal by May 25, 2026, at 3:00 pm & emailed the top two students to Elizabeth Sotelo by 4 pm on May 29, 2026.

2. The District Office committee will review applications.
3. Board Members will interview finalists during the June 11, 2026, Board Meeting.
4. Selected Student Trustees will be sworn in and seated during the June 11, 2026, Board Meeting.

Serving on the School Board as a Student Board Trustee has similar requirements as other CVUSD extracurricular and co-curricular activities. Per CA Education Code, Student Trustees serve for one year, between July 11, 2026, and June 30, 2027.

Student Trustees will sit on the dais on a rotating basis meeting-by-meeting, will present the Student Trustee Report, and vote on various items.

While they will have a preferential vote on the Board of Education's agenda, Student Trustees will not participate in Closed Sessions, nor will their preferential vote affect the final numerical outcome of a Board vote. Student Trustees may make motions that the Board may act upon and are allowed to question speakers and discuss issues except on matters dealing with employer-employee relations.

Student Trustees shall be reimbursed for mileage to the same extent as other Board Members but shall not receive compensation for attendance at Board meetings. The Superintendent may, at district expense, provide learning opportunities to Student Board Trustees through training, workshops, and conferences, such as those offered by CSBA and others, to enhance their knowledge, understanding, and performance of their Board responsibilities.

SUPERINTENDENT'S STUDENT LEADERSHIP ADVISORY COUNCIL

In addition, Student Trustees will be part of the Superintendent's Student Leadership Advisory Council and will meet with the Superintendent, the Secondary Director, and their high school sponsors, the Monday before each board meeting.