

Draft Policy: Student Representative Work Session Program

Policy Code: BBFA – Student Board Representation (Proposed)

Status: New Policy

Date Introduced: 6/10/2025

First Reading:

Second Reading and Adoption:

Purpose

The Atlanta Board of Education recognizes that student voice is essential to effective governance and educational equity, as outlined in Board Policy BAC. To empower students as civic participants and develop leadership capacity across diverse student populations, the Board hereby establishes the Student Representative Work Session Program.

Policy Statement

Beginning in the 2025–2026 academic year, the Board shall invite one high school student from the Atlanta Public Schools Student Advisory Council (SAC) to serve as a non-voting Student Representative during monthly Board Work Sessions. This policy supplements, but does not replace, existing advisory structures such as those defined under BBF-R(5).

Scope and Limitations

Participation:

- Student Representatives shall rotate monthly among eligible SAC members.
- Representatives shall participate only in Board Work Sessions. They will not attend Business Meetings or Executive Sessions.

- Student Representatives may ask questions and share perspectives during discussions, at the discretion of the Board Chair, either by request or through formal recognition.
- Representatives shall be introduced by the Chair at the start of each Work Session to acknowledge their presence and role.

Restrictions:

- Student Representatives shall not have voting power.
- They shall not access confidential materials, executive deliberations, or personnel-related matters.
- Participation on the dais is limited to students who have satisfied all attendance and academic eligibility requirements.

Eligibility and Selection

To qualify for appointment, a student must:

- Be a member in good standing of the APS Student Advisory Council.
- Maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.8, verified on a quarterly basis.
- Submit a signed Parent/Guardian Acknowledgment of Candidacy form.
- Provide a Course of Study Plan approved by their school counselor.
- Be endorsed by two faculty members attesting to the student's leadership, character, and maturity.
- Have attended at least two full Board Work Sessions as an observer prior to serving on the dais.

Orientation:

- All selected students must complete a formal orientation session that covers Board protocols, professional expectations, confidentiality, and procedural norms before taking their seat.

Equity in Selection:

- The Office of Student Engagement shall ensure the selection process promotes diverse representation across schools, grade levels, backgrounds, and academic interests.

Student Supports and Academic Considerations

- **Course Credit:** Students may receive elective credit in Leadership or Service Learning for their service, contingent upon completing required engagement logs and participation debriefs.
- **Excused Absences:** Participation in Board Work Sessions will qualify as an excused absence when documented and approved in advance.
- **Transportation:** APS shall coordinate or reimburse transportation to and from Work Sessions for participating students.

Responsibilities

- Attend the full assigned Work Session during the designated month.
- Engage in discussion when appropriate, maintaining professional and respectful conduct.
- Report back to the Student Advisory Council with insights and updates on Board deliberations.
- Maintain strict confidentiality in accordance with Board expectations.

Accountability and Review

- The Office of Student Engagement shall manage student selection, orientation, and support. An annual report shall be submitted to the Board summarizing participation, impact, and recommendations for improvement.

- In cases of non-compliance with academic or behavioral standards, a review committee—composed of a SAC advisor and Board designee—may recommend removal.
- This policy may be reviewed and updated annually to ensure continued effectiveness, equity, and alignment with the goals of APS.