

**BOARD POLICY**  
**San Mateo County Community College District**

**Subject:** BP 1.05 Student Trustee  
**Review Date:** 5/13  
**Policy Reference:** Education Code Section 72023.5

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PREAMBLE: In order to ensure that students have the opportunity to participate effectively in District governance and to express their opinions about important governance initiatives and issues, the Board welcomes the inclusion of a Student Trustee on the Board of Trustees. The Board encourages each College to promote their very best candidates for this office each year, by encouraging students who are deeply committed to their College and the interests of students to apply for the position. The Board believes that with a competitive election process on each campus each year, the very best candidates will emerge and that will ensure that student interests are effectively represented. The Board expects that each College will have opportunities for students from their College to serve as Student Trustee.

1. A Student Trustee shall serve a one-year term as a nonvoting member of the Board beginning June 1 each year. The student member shall be seated with the Board and shall be recognized as a full member of the Board at meetings. The student member is entitled to may participate in discussion of issues and receive all materials presented to members of the Board (except for closed session materials). The rights of the Student Trustee shall be limited to those mandated in the Education Code except that the Student Trustee shall have the right to make or second motions and will have the right to exercise an advisory vote. The responsibilities of the Student Trustee shall be those mandated by the Education Code and those approved by the Board including:
  - a. The Student Trustee shall be responsible and accountable to the students of the District and their elected officers.
    - i. The Student Trustee shall study the documents that are presented to the Board of Trustees at regular meetings and study sessions and represent student interests on these matters before the Board.
    - ii. The Student Trustee shall call and attend one District Student Council meeting each month to review the upcoming Board of Trustees' agenda and to discuss issues before the Board of Trustees. In addition, the Student Trustee shall attend Student Council meetings at the Colleges when deemed appropriate.
    - iii. Through the District Student Council, the Student Trustee shall keep the Student Council at each College informed about issues brought before the Board of Trustees and shall seek student input on these issues.
2. To be eligible to serve as a Student Trustee, a person must meet all statutory requirements, including:
  - a. Be currently enrolled in one of the Colleges of the San Mateo County Community College District.

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- b. Maintain enrollment in at least six semester units during the election period and throughout the Student Trustee's term of office, and meet and maintain the minimum standards of scholarship as described in Section 6.16 of Rules and Regulations.
  - c. Not concurrently hold any recognized Associated Student government position in the three Colleges of the San Mateo County Community College District while holding the office of Student Trustee. Students who wish to run for Student Trustee may not be a candidate for President or Vice President of any Associated Students organization.
  - d. Run for the office of Student Trustee at only one campus.
  - e. A student is not required to give up employment with the District in order to be seated as the Student Trustee.
3. Election of Student Trustee nominees by students from each of the three Colleges shall take place by March 30 of each year. The manner, place, and time of the election shall be determined by the Associated Students at each College. The Associated Students shall make every effort to schedule elections on different days at the Colleges.
  4. A panel of seven students (two student body officers from each College, selected by the Student Government, and the outgoing Student Trustee) shall interview the three Student Trustee nominees and elect one person by secret ballot to be seated as the Student Trustee. None of the members of the panel may be a candidate for the position of Student Trustee. If there is no outgoing Student Trustee to serve on the panel, the District Student Council shall select an alternate member to serve on the panel. Four votes shall be required for election, and the process must be completed by April 15.
    - a. If there is a 3-3-1 tie vote, the candidate with the least amount of votes will be dropped, and the panel will re-vote. Before a vote is taken, the candidates may be re-interviewed.
    - b. If there is a 3-2-2 tie vote, the panel will vote only on the candidates who have two votes, to break the tie, and the candidate with the least amount of votes will be eliminated. The panel will vote on the remaining two candidates. Before a vote is taken, the candidates may be re-interviewed.
    - c. If the panel is unable to elect one of the nominees to be seated on the Board by April 15 of each year, the Chancellor shall select, by lot, the student to be seated on the Board.
  5. The Student Trustee may be recalled for non performance of duties, violation of the Student Code of Conduct or ethical lapses by a no-confidence vote taken by the District Student Council and shall be considered passed by simple majority.
  6. If a vacancy should occur during the Student Trustee's one-year term, the panel described in 1.05(4) shall convene to elect one of the remaining nominees to be seated as Student Trustee. Any College which does not have a previously elected nominee may hold a special election to select a nominee. Such nominee(s) shall be considered by the panel together with the nominee(s) from the other College(s). If the panel is unable to select from among the nominees, the Chancellor shall select, by lot, one of the nominees to fill the vacancy.
  7. A student may serve as Student Trustee for only two terms, whether served consecutively or with a break in service.
  8. The District shall provide monthly compensation to the Student Trustee for attending Board meetings at one-half of the maximum amount allowed for elected trustees under the Education Code. In addition, the Board of Trustees may award the Student Trustee a service award as follows:

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- a. One payment annually, payable May 31 at the end of his/her term of office. In order to receive the payment, the Student Trustee must have been in office and fulfilled his/her duties as outlined in this section for the entire 12-month period.
  - b. Each annual payment will be equal to the total of 12 monthly compensations.
  - c. The Board of Trustees reserves all discretion for any partial allocation in case of extraordinary circumstances beyond the Student Trustee's control causing early termination of term of office.
9. Transportation allowance for travel necessary to attend Board meetings and to attend to other official District business as authorized by the Board shall be provided for the Student Trustee at the same rate as that established for other Trustees. The student trustee may, upon prior approval by the President of the Board, attend conferences and be reimbursed for expenses associated with the approved conferences. The Student Trustee shall also receive the same health and welfare benefits as are provided to Board members.