

Nevada Student Advisory Board

Why is a Student Advisor Board necessary?

The Student member of the Board of Education's job is to represent the interests of almost half a million students in Nevada; however, one person has not lived through the experiences of every Nevada student, so their view is limited. While SMBOEs have tried to garner input from Nevada's Students before, it could be more comprehensive. By creating a student advisory board, we can make a point of direct communication between the Student Member and Nevada's Students, allowing the Student Member and the BOE to perform their jobs better.

What would the benefits of a student advisory board be?

The Student Advisory Board would advise the Student Member on issues pertaining to Nevada students from different backgrounds. The hope would be to have members from all of Nevada's geographical regions and all school divisions.

1. **Diverse Perspectives:** The Student Advisory Board would serve as a platform for students with various backgrounds, experiences, and viewpoints to come together. This diversity of perspectives is crucial for addressing the unique needs and challenges faced by students across Nevada.
2. **Real-World Learning:** Membership on the Student Advisory Board would provide students real-world learning experiences in leadership, teamwork, and decision-making. These skills are essential for their personal and professional development, and they can apply them beyond their educational journey.
3. **Inclusivity:** Including traditionally underrepresented or marginalized student groups on the Board ensures their voices are heard, and their unique needs are addressed. Some of these students may not have the opportunities to advocate for themselves in any other way and may lack the resources necessary to hold a position where they can highlight their struggles. This promotes equity and inclusivity in educational decision-making.
4. **Accountability:** Having a direct line of communication between the Student Member and the students of Nevada helps to hold the Board of Education accountable for its decisions. It ensures that the Board is aware of the impact of their policies on the ground and can make necessary adjustments based on student feedback.
5. **Foster Civic Engagement:** Involving students in the educational decision-making process at an early age encourages civic engagement and a sense of responsibility toward their communities. This experience can inspire students to become active participants in the democratic process as they grow older.
6. **Transparent Governance:** The presence of a Student Advisory Board promotes transparency in educational governance. It shows that the Board of Education values the

input of its primary stakeholders, the students, and is committed to making informed decisions based on their feedback.

Who would be on the student advisory board?

The goal would be to have approximately 40 students across the state on the Board. Each Superintendent could appoint 2-3 students to serve on the Board for a specified term. These appointees could come from different grade levels in high school to ensure a variety of perspectives. Additionally, we can provide open applications to ensure inclusivity and representation of students who may not be selected by school leaders. This way, any student interested in participating can apply, regardless of their academic performance or extracurricular involvement. It's important to have members from different geographical regions within Nevada to consider the unique challenges and opportunities faced by students in urban, suburban, and rural areas. The selection process should be designed to be as inclusive and equitable as possible, ensuring that students from underrepresented or marginalized groups are actively encouraged to participate.

The specific structure and composition of the Student Advisory Board can be further refined based on the educational goals and priorities of the Nevada Board of Education and the unique needs of the student population in the state. Regular evaluations and adjustments to the composition can help maintain the Board's effectiveness in representing student interests.

What would the Student Advisory Board do?

The Student Advisory Board would convene on a monthly basis, focusing on the upcoming agenda items of the Board of Education's forthcoming meetings. During these sessions, the board members would engage in in-depth discussions to provide valuable insights to the Student Member. They would share their diverse perspectives and personal experiences, offering a comprehensive view of student sentiments. Furthermore, the Board would aim to foster a dynamic exchange of ideas by extending invitations to select Board of Education members to address the Student Advisory Board on specific topics originating from the official board meetings. These interactions would facilitate an open forum for constructive dialogue, enabling both students and board members to gain a deeper understanding of each other's perspectives and stay informed about statewide developments.

In pursuit of enhanced clarity and direction, the Board would collaboratively craft a prioritized list of key issues pertaining to Nevada's students. This compilation of priorities would serve as a valuable resource for the Board of Education, aiding them in aligning their focus and objectives with the genuine needs and concerns of the student body. In cases where feasible, the Student Member may collaborate with the Student Advisory Board to create informative presentations tailored for the Board of Education. Additionally, with the support of the Nevada Department of Education (NDE), the Board may endeavor to contribute to the formulation of legislation addressing student-centric matters. This collaborative effort aims to furnish state legislators with well-informed proposals that can drive positive changes in the realm of student education.

In Conclusion

The establishment of a Student Advisory Board in Nevada represents a crucial step toward fostering a more inclusive, accountable, and student-centric education system. It acknowledges the limitations of a single Student Member in representing the diverse experiences of nearly half a million students. By creating this Board, we aim to bridge the gap between students and educational authorities, ensuring that the voices of Nevada's students are not just heard but actively integrated into decision-making processes.

The benefits of such a board are many, ranging from promoting diverse perspectives and real-world learning opportunities to championing inclusivity and fostering civic engagement. It serves as a means of holding the Board of Education accountable for its decisions and promoting transparent governance, thereby strengthening trust and collaboration within the educational system.