

Toronto District School Board

Policy P070

Title: **STUDENT LEADERSHIP**

Adopted: September 23, 2009

Revised: **May 18, 2011**

Reviewed: March 2012

1.0 OBJECTIVE

To further the Board's commitment to engaging students and to establish the framework for an equitable, effective, and efficient student representation and leadership across the system

2.0 RESPONSIBILITY

Director of Education

3.0 DEFINITIONS

Student council A student-run organization in a school which represents the entire student body. Student councils are also known as SAC (student activity/administrative councils) or student government. In addition to advocacy, a student council is responsible for the administration of a variety of student-run activities and initiatives to benefit the student body.

Student SuperCouncil A body of student leaders established by the Board and democratically elected by students. It represents and advocates for all students in the Board.

Student Any person enrolled in a school run by the Board. Schools include, but are not limited to, elementary schools, secondary schools, alternative schools, adult learning centres, and continuing education programs.

4.0 POLICY

4.1. Student SuperCouncil

- (a) The Board shall continue to support an executive council known as the Student SuperCouncil comprised of student leaders from across the district.
- (b) The Student SuperCouncil shall have a standing item on the Planning and Priorities Committee agenda to report to the Planning and Priorities Committee.
- (c) The Student SuperCouncil shall represent all students in the Board and shall be the main contact for consultation on matters related to the student body.

- (d) The Student SuperCouncil shall operate in accordance with the Student Super-Council's Constitution.
- (e) Members of the Student SuperCouncil shall be democratically elected by the student body of the Board at large in the spring of each school year.
- (f) Members of the Student SuperCouncil shall host meetings in different regions of the Board which are open to all students to attend.
- (g) Staff advisors, including one superintendent of education, shall be appointed by the Director to provide guidance to the Student SuperCouncil.

4.2. Student Councils

- (a) Student councils shall be mandatory in all schools that offer Grades 7 to 12 programming with the exception of those identified in section 4.2 (m) of the policy.
- (b) Students shall be permitted to present themselves as candidates for school student council elections provided that they are full-time students at the school and have a staff sponsor.
- (c) A minimum of one staff advisor, who shall be guided by in-service around student engagement practices, shall be appointed by the principal to provide guidance to the candidates for student council.
- (d) All student council positions shall be democratically elected by the students in Grades 7 and above in the school by a balloting process determined by the school administration, teachers, and students in consultation with the student council.
- (e) The staff advisor, by liaising with school staff, shall periodically assess the progress of members of the student council to ensure that they are continuing to succeed academically and are contributing to student council leadership throughout their tenure.
- (f) The student council shall serve as the main contact for consultation on matters related to the student body and shall work proactively with the school administration and the school council when appropriate to resolve issues related to the interests of the student body.
- (g) The student council shall operate in accordance with a locally-developed constitution that adheres to the Board's Equity Foundation policy.
- (h) Members of student councils shall register as student leaders with the Student SuperCouncil within 30 days of their election by providing the names, phone numbers, and e-mail addresses of the staff advisor(s) and the elected student council members.¹

¹ Online at <http://www.supercouncil.ca>, by the Board's interoffice mail, or through applications on Direct Line.

- (i) Personal contact information provided by student councils to the Student SuperCouncil shall be used solely for operational purposes of the Student SuperCouncil.
- (j) Student leaders shall consult with the student body of their schools on matters where the Student SuperCouncil requests consultation. Student trustees may initiate this process.
- (k) Each student council shall annually select a minimum of one student to liaise with the Student SuperCouncil and to attend regional meetings organized by the Student SuperCouncil.
- (l) Each school shall select a minimum of one student who will be returning to the Board the following school year to represent the student body at the annual Student SuperCouncil Elections Conference held in the spring to vote for a new executive and two student trustees.
- (m) In a school where it is not feasible to have a student council,¹ one student of the school shall annually select student representatives without creating a student council in a process deemed appropriate by the principal of the school. If an appropriate process for students to select a representative is not possible, the school principal shall appoint a student. These selected students shall register with the Student SuperCouncil in accordance with sections section 4.2 (h), but are exempt from sections 4.2 (a) to (g).

5.0 SPECIFIC DIRECTIVES

The Director is authorized to issue operational procedures to implement this policy.

6.0 REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

Board documents

Policy P037, Equity Foundation
Student SuperCouncil Constitution

Ministry documents

O. Reg. 7/07, Student Trustees

¹ Schools where it is not feasible to elect a student council could include alternative schools, adult learning centres, or schools that have unique schedules and student needs.