

# THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF PHILADELPHIA

No. 232

Section: Pupils

Title: Student Voice in  
Decision Making

Adopted: April 27, 1981

Revised: December 13,  
2018

## 232 Student Voice In Decision Making

### **Purpose**

The Board of Education is committed to ensuring all students are empowered to voice issues and ideas that affect their education, learning, environment, and overall school experience. The Board recognizes the importance of establishing and maintaining student voice initiatives by engaging students as contributors to the decision-making process which help students make connections and develop a sense of belonging in their school.

### **Definitions**

**Student Voice:** the individual and collective perspective and actions of students who work to make improvements to their classrooms, schools, the greater public, school system and communities.

**Student Leadership:** refers to the representative structure that provides opportunities for all students to voice their educational preferences and needs.

### **Authority**

The Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent to encourage the engagement of students to identify new and improve on existing policies, practices and procedures impacting students. The Superintendent will actively support student participation in decision-making in the district through regular interactions with students. Recommendations for the improvement of the school

may be offered by any student, provided the recommendations are of a constructive nature and contribute toward the goals of the district.

The Board of Education recognizes a school's student council as the official voice of the student body of a school, and the City-Wide Student Government as the official voice for the entire student body in the district. The Superintendent will solicit student input and ideas about key issues from the Superintendent's Student Advisory Board and the City-Wide Student Government.

The Board of Education will ensure that one Philadelphia public high school student and one alternate will be selected to serve in an advisory, non-voting role on the Philadelphia Board of Education.

### **Delegation of Responsibility**

The Superintendent shall develop procedures to implement this policy which:

1. Provide for the submission, consideration and response to constructive student suggestions;
2. Designate the manner by which students shall be selected for participation in school matters;
3. Ensure that student participation is fairly representative of the student body;
4. Ensure that the student voice and vote in decision making is fairly balanced with those of faculty, administration and community members.

### **Legal References:**

1. Pennsylvania School Code Section 12.15(g)(5)(6); 511(d)
2. Pennsylvania Code Title 22