

REGULATION

ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Related Entries: JCA

Responsible Office: CHIEF STUDENT AND SYSTEMIC SUPPORTS OFFICER

REPRESENTATIVE STUDENT LEADERSHIP

A. PURPOSE

To establish structure for the Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS) representative student leadership programs.

B. BACKGROUND

State law recognizes the Chesapeake Regional Association of Student Councils (CRASC) as the governing body that annually selects the Student Member of the Board of Education (SMOB). In addition to that important function, CRASC provides the student perspective at Board of Education of Anne Arundel County (Board) meetings and other venues.

In addition to CRASC, there are many other opportunities for student leadership in AACPS, including the Superintendent's Teen Advisory, SMOB, and school-based student leadership organizations.

C. DEFINITIONS

1. ***Chesapeake Regional Association of Student Councils (CRASC)*** – the representative organization of all students enrolled in the secondary schools of AACPS to develop leadership skills, promote good sportsmanship, and to initiate improvements and activities for the general good of AACPS students.
2. ***CRASC Advisor*** – a designated staff member who coordinates the countywide leadership activities.
3. ***CRASC Elected Officers***– an elected CRASC leadership team that includes the president, vice president, secretary of legislation, secretary of education, secretary of service, secretary of communication, and middle school coordinator.
4. ***School Based Leadership Advisor*** – a designated staff member at every secondary school who shall receive and distribute information about student leadership. The staff member shall facilitate participation in leadership opportunities and ensure that the school is represented at CRASC events.

5. ***Superintendent's Teen Advisory*** – the Superintendent's optional cabinet of student leaders that provide the student perspective and share ideas about the school system and the teen experience.
6. ***Student Member of the Board (SMOB)*** – one member of the Board who is currently enrolled as an AACPS senior. This member is elected through a process determined by CRASC and appointed by the Governor of the State of Maryland.

D. PROCEDURES

1. Countywide Initiatives

- a. Students shall have a voice in school system affairs through participation in CRASC.
- b. Information regarding student leadership activities and opportunities shall be communicated from the Office of Student Leadership to each school-based leadership advisor.
- c. Schools shall make reasonable efforts to remove any obstacles to participation by all students in leadership opportunities.
- d. Staff, students, and volunteers shall adhere to all AACPS policies and regulations while participating in leadership events.
- e. Secondary schools shall provide representatives for all countywide leadership initiatives, including all CRASC events and SMOB elections. High schools are required to provide representatives to the Superintendent's Teen Advisory.

2. CRASC

- a. All AACPS secondary schools shall provide a student delegation to attend all CRASC events and elections.
- b. The CRASC General Assembly shall consist of the student delegates from all secondary schools and secondary students from all public schools, public charter and contract schools, and educational options programs in AACPS.
- c. Each school shall be entitled to a number of votes determined by school population, as specified in the CRASC Bylaws.
- d. The CRASC president shall preside over the General Assembly as it is outlined in the CRASC Constitution. The CRASC vice president shall preside over the

General Assembly in the president's absence.

- e. The duties and responsibilities of the General Assembly are outlined in the CRASC Constitution and include:
 - i. Ratifying the CRASC constitution, bylaws, or legislative platform; and
 - ii. Confirming members of the CRASC Oversight Committee.
- f. The General Assembly shall meet at least once per marking period, or when approved by the CRASC elected officers and advisor.
- g. CRASC may take an official position on any school system or community issue, subject to the approval of the CRASC advisor.
 - i. Positions requiring an amendment to the CRASC Legislative Platform shall be approved by the CRASC General Assembly.
 - ii. Positions not requiring an amendment may be approved by the CRASC elected officers or designated subcommittee.
- h. *CRASC Elections*
 - i. CRASC elections shall be governed by the CRASC Bylaws.
 - ii. CRASC elections shall be held by secret ballot.
 - iii. Written election procedures shall be made available to all interested parties at least 2 weeks prior to the election.
 - iv. Any questions concerning the election process or election results shall be submitted in writing to the Office of Student Leadership.

3. School-Based Student Leadership Organizations

- a. All secondary schools shall maintain a school-based student leadership organization such as a student council or student government as a mechanism for student activism within the school.
- b. Each secondary school shall designate a school-based leadership advisor who shall receive and distribute information about countywide student leadership events and opportunities.

- c. School-based leadership advisors shall maintain communication with the Office of Student Leadership and the school-based student leadership organization.
- d. School based leadership organizations may maintain subcommittees that manage school activities.
- e. School based leadership organizations shall maintain a collaborative relationship with all other school organizations.
- f. Student leadership organizations shall accurately represent the interests, character, and demographics of the student body.
- g. Students have a responsibility to prepare a written constitution or amendments to the existing constitution for the student council or government, with advice from the school-based leadership advisor as needed.
- h. The student leadership organization of a school may submit requests and recommendations to the principal.
- i. The student leadership organization of a school may submit requests and proposals to CRASC for countywide support.
- j. *Elections for School-Based Student Leadership Organizations*
 - i. Elections for school-based student leadership organizations shall be governed by the constitution or bylaws of the applicable school-based student leadership organization. In the absence of an existing constitution or bylaws, a student leadership group appointed by the principal shall determine election procedures.
 - ii. Voting rights shall be provided to all currently enrolled students.
 - iii. Elections shall be held by secret ballot.
 - iv. Written election procedures shall be made available to all interested parties at least 2 weeks prior to the election.
 - v. Any questions concerning the election process or election results shall be submitted in writing to the Office of Student Leadership.

4. Superintendent's Teen Advisory

- a. Students shall be appointed to the Superintendent's Teen Advisory by a method determined by the Superintendent or the Superintendent's designee.

- b. Students on the Superintendent’s Teen Advisory shall represent the perspective of the collective student body of their school.
 - c. When a student cannot attend a meeting of the Superintendent’s Teen Advisory, a alternate representative shall be appointed by the principal.
 - d. The number of students on the Superintendent’s Teen Advisory shall be at the discretion of the Superintendent.
- 5. Student Member of the Board**
- a. The method by which the SMOB is elected shall be approved by the CRASC General Assembly. The details of this selection method shall be made available to all students and shall be distributed through the school-based student leadership advisor.
 - b. All secondary schools shall be required to provide a full voting delegation for the election.
 - c. Counseling in areas related to the election process, campaigning, and candidacy shall be made available to all candidates by the Office of Student Leadership.
 - d. The SMOB is appointed by the Governor of the State of Maryland.
- 6. Other Programs**
- a. Other county leadership programs and initiatives promoted by the Office of Student Leadership are always expanding and include the Maryland General Assembly Page Program, the Maryland Youth Advisory Council, Maryland Leadership Workshops, the Maryland Association of Student Councils, the Anne Arundel County Youth Advisory Council, the Anne Arundel County Human Relations Commission, and the Anne Arundel County Public Library Board of Trustees.
 - b. Request for student representatives shall be evaluated by the Superintendent or the Superintendent’s designee, and when appropriate, a student representative shall be selected to serve on committees countywide.
 - c. Student leaders may be selected or nominated by the Office of Student Leadership to serve on committees and councils within the community.

Regulation History: Issued 03/05/14; Revised 09/04/24

Note Previous Regulation History: None

Legal References: Sections 3-2A-01 and 3-2A-05 of the Education Article