

	<b>Superintendent's Circular</b>	<b>NUMBER: FAM-06</b>
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## **BOSTON STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL**

*This Circular will remain in effect unless rescinded or superseded by a subsequent version.*

Massachusetts State Law Chapter 71: Section 38M. Student Advisory Committee states: School committees of cities, towns and regional school districts shall meet at least once every other month, during the months school is in session, with a student advisory committee to consist of five members to be composed of students elected by the student body of the high school or high schools in each city, town, or regional school district.

### **MISSION STATEMENT**

The Boston Student Advisory Council advocates for and protects the voices of students in the Boston Public School system, empowers the student body to express their opinions regarding educational policy changes, and ensures that students are included in decision and policy making which impacts their lives and educational experiences.

In the Boston Public Schools, students can apply to their school to serve on the Boston Student Advisory Council. The Boston Student Advisory Council (BSAC), a citywide body of student leaders representing their respective high schools, serves as the voice of students to the Boston School Committee, the superintendent, and central office departments. BSAC offers student perspectives on policies, initiatives, and reform efforts, and inform their respective schools about relevant citywide

school issues. They also address student issues by developing district-wide policies and working with student governments and heads of schools on school level policies and practices.

BSAC is made up of a Full Council and Executive Committee. The Full Council is the think tank which generates the ideas for projects, and the Executive Committee is the leadership team of six (6) to twelve (12) students who serve as the advising body to the Boston School Committee and superintendent. The Executive Committee also plans and facilitates meetings with the support of the BSAC manager, facilitates youth engagement in district initiatives and departments, develops BSAC priorities, and monitors progress.

Each Boston public high school (including district, exam, all high school-level alternative, pilot, and in-district charter schools) is required to have at least one and up to two BSAC representatives from their school. The BSAC representative is a part of the student government and must regularly attend student government meetings to share BSAC's work, receive feedback, and gather input on projects/policies. Where possible, it is helpful to have a student representative who is on the School Site Council serve on BSAC as well. There are two ways students may become a BSAC member: (1) through student elections at the school level, or (2) through the BSAC application managed by the Office of Youth Leadership.

## **ROLE OF BSAC MEMBERS**

1. To elect a leadership team that will serve in advisory to the School Committee as part of its decision-making process.
2. To keep their Student Government and school community informed about relevant district initiatives and decisions, and actively seek and collect feedback to inform district

decision making through regular attendance and participation in Student Government meetings.

3. To work on BSAC projects and initiatives.

BSAC representatives will:

- Represent their schools at BSAC meetings.
- Assist in decision making for their schools by advising the administration on student-centered citywide issues and policies.
- Work on policies that BSAC develops.
- Perform tasks necessary to advance project work, such as surveys, meetings with heads of schools and Student Government advisors, peer interviews, etc.
- Ensure representation of student voice for their school through continuous engagement with the Student Government and their broader student body.

The Office of Youth Leadership is responsible for oversight and support of BSAC.

## SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT DATES AND DEADLINES

Date	Activity
September 29	First BSAC meeting for returning representatives
October 15	Deadline to hold Student Government Elections
October 15	Email names of Student Government representative(s) and BSAC member to Office of Youth Leadership, <a href="mailto:BSAC@bostonpublicschools.org">BSAC@bostonpublicschools.org</a>
October 28	Deadline for youth to apply to City of Boston's Success Link to qualify for a youth job slot. When possible, the Office of Youth Leadership partners with the City of Boston's Department of Youth Engagement and Employment to provide paid youth jobs to BSAC members.

For more information about this circular, contact:

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Mary Skipper, Superintendent