

2024 WSSDA Bylaw Addition Proposal

We, the Shoreline School Board, submit the following proposal to be considered for addition as a new section within the WSSDA Bylaws. Upon adoption by WSSDA Membership all subsequent existing sections within the Bylaws will be renumbered accordingly:

X. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

Section 1. Student Representative Network Membership & Participation

Any student elected or selected to serve as a representative or advisor to a school board in Washington state (herein referred to as “student representative”) is automatically a member of WSSDA’s Student Representative Network (SRN). The SRN will meet monthly during the school year (September-May) to connect student representatives to issues and topics regarding K-12 education in Washington state.

There are no dues or costs for student representatives or their school districts for participation in the SRN.

Section 2. SRN Elections

Student representative members of SRN are empowered to elect / select officers for leadership of SRN, consisting of a Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary.

As primary liaisons of the SRN, the SRN Chair will be a representative to the WSSDA Board and the SRN Vice Chair will be a representative to the WSSDA Nominating Committee.

Section 3. Representation on WSSDA Board & Committees

In addition to the above, SRN members will elect / select one (1) student representative from a district on the East side of the state and one (1) student representative from the West side of the state for representation on each of the following bodies within WSSDA:

- WSSDA Board
- Resolutions Committee
- Legislative Committee
- Interscholastic Committee
- Annual Conference Planning Committee
- Small Schools Advisory Committee
- Trust Lands Advisory Committee
- Board Members of Color Council

Mirroring the committee structure of the Legislative Committee, one (1) additional SRN member may be appointed as a representative from a district in Director Area 2 for that committee.

The inclusion of student representatives to the Government-to-Government Task Force will be within the purview of the leadership and members of that Task Force.

TERM OF SERVICE

Student representatives to the WSSDA Board and Committees will serve one year terms. A student representative may be elected to more than one term.

RESIGNATIONS & VACANCIES

Any student representative serving on the WSSDA Board or Committees may resign at any time by giving written notice to the SRN Chair and Board President or Committee Chair, as applicable. Resignations shall take effect immediately unless there is a time specified therein.

In the event of a vacancy of a student representative in any of the seats outlined above, the SRN Chair will have the authority to appoint a successor from among current SRN members in the geographic region of the open seat to serve until the next SRN election. The appointment shall be subject to approval by SRN Leadership.

MEETING ATTENDANCE

Student representatives to the WSSDA Board and Committees will be supported in attending all meetings virtually. If any student representative is not able to attend a Board or Committee meeting as scheduled, they will notify the Board President or Committee Chair, as applicable.

It is encouraged that student representatives be able to attend any in-person Board and/or Committee meetings, as well. The WSSDA Board will determine annually what financial and logistic support will be made available by WSSDA to enable in person attendance by student representatives at these meetings.

ADVISORY VOTES

Student representatives serving on the WSSDA Board and Committees will have advisory votes as part of the Board and Committee deliberation and voting processes. An advisory vote is a non-binding vote that is cast by the student representatives ahead of the votes cast by the Board / Committee members in order to provide student perspective ahead of the official vote.

SUPPORT BY BOARD AND COMMITTEES

Each year the WSSDA Board President, Committee Chairs, SRN President, and WSSDA staff who support the Board and Committees will establish shared parameters for maintaining a safe and supportive environment at Board / Committee meetings for authentic student participation.

RATIONALE:

Everything we do as board directors, supported by WSSDA, is for the students of Washington state. Over 150 of the 295 boards across the state have added student representatives to their boards, understanding how vital it is to hear directly from those we serve and are most impacted by the decisions we make. The same is true for the work directors do at WSSDA when we serve on the WSSDA Board and committees. Decisions we make in this capacity drive the direction of WSSDA operations and advocacy - which all, in the end, directly impact students.

Notably, WSSDA membership has supported the creation and formalization of the Student Representative Network (SRN), which provides an official space for student representatives to school boards to come together in leadership and learning. In addition, WSSDA membership adopted a position on Student Voice in Governance which asserts "Students deserve a meaningful role in providing input and guidance in the direction of their district and with

decisions made on their behalf. WSSDA recommends and supports the establishment of formalized structures and policies with students to integrate ongoing, effective K-12 student voice." WSSDA has also developed a model policy and procedure to support the inclusion of student representatives on boards across the state.

This past year the SRN created a leadership structure that supports the self-governance of the network and readiness to operate as a group within WSSDA.

Therefore, to fulfill our own adopted position recommendations, this bylaw revision proposal is being brought forward to recognize the SRN within WSSDA's Bylaws and to create a formal structure for the integration of student representatives from the SRN on the WSSDA Board and Committees. This revision will ensure that student voice and perspective are part of the conversations and considerations happening in the leadership structure that guides WSSDA direction and advocacy that is all aligned around best serving students.

The goal of this proposal is to formalize the existence of the SRN within WSSDA Bylaws and to establish a sustainable process of election and service, as well as cross-state representation, by student representatives on these bodies within WSSDA. Our collective work will be strengthened by their participation in our organization.

This bylaw proposal was co-created with the Shoreline School Board Student Representatives, a representative from the Riverview School Board (which authored the initial WSSDA position on Student Voice), and the current SRN Chair and a few SRN members from other districts.

Approved by a vote of the Board on June 4, 2024.