

Student Rep Advisory Vote

ISD STUDENT
REPS

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Expressing Our Gratitude

- We appreciate the opportunity to advocate for students at the district-level!
- We've enjoyed attending Board Meetings, WSSDA, Day on the Hill, and Board Retreats



Student Rep Advisory Vote: what is it?

- 1 collective non-binding vote
- Consultative purpose
- Allows for transparency with the community
- Facilitates open dialogue

Catching Up with Other School Boards

- Many other boards already have an advisory vote:

- Arlington
- Battle Ground
- Castle Rock
- Colville
- Darrington
- Ferndale
- Fife
- Franklin Pierce
- Hockinson
- Kennewick
- Lake Chelan
- Lyle
- Lynden
- Meridian
- North Beach
- North Mason
- Oak Harbor
- Olympia
- Quincy
- Republic
- San Juan Island
- Seattle
- South Whidbey
- White Salmon Valley

WSSDA Guidelines

- 2023 WSSDA Student Rep Network recommendations to school board (right) strongly recommend an advisory vote
- WSSDA Model Policy reads: "Student representatives provide the board with advisory votes on agenda items as follows. Immediately before the board votes on an agenda item, the student board representatives will provide their advisory vote – whether pro, con, or abstain."

As a Network, we have heard that some boards may be confused or have concerns about advisory voting for student representatives. **We would emphasize that the whole reason that a student representative sits on a board is to represent the student body.** The opportunity for us to provide advisory votes **before the board takes their official vote** makes our role more authentic. When student perspective is different than that of the board, there is opportunity to have additional discussion to unpack of why students might disagree. We urge you to add advisory voting to the role of student representatives in your district.



Policies to Vote On

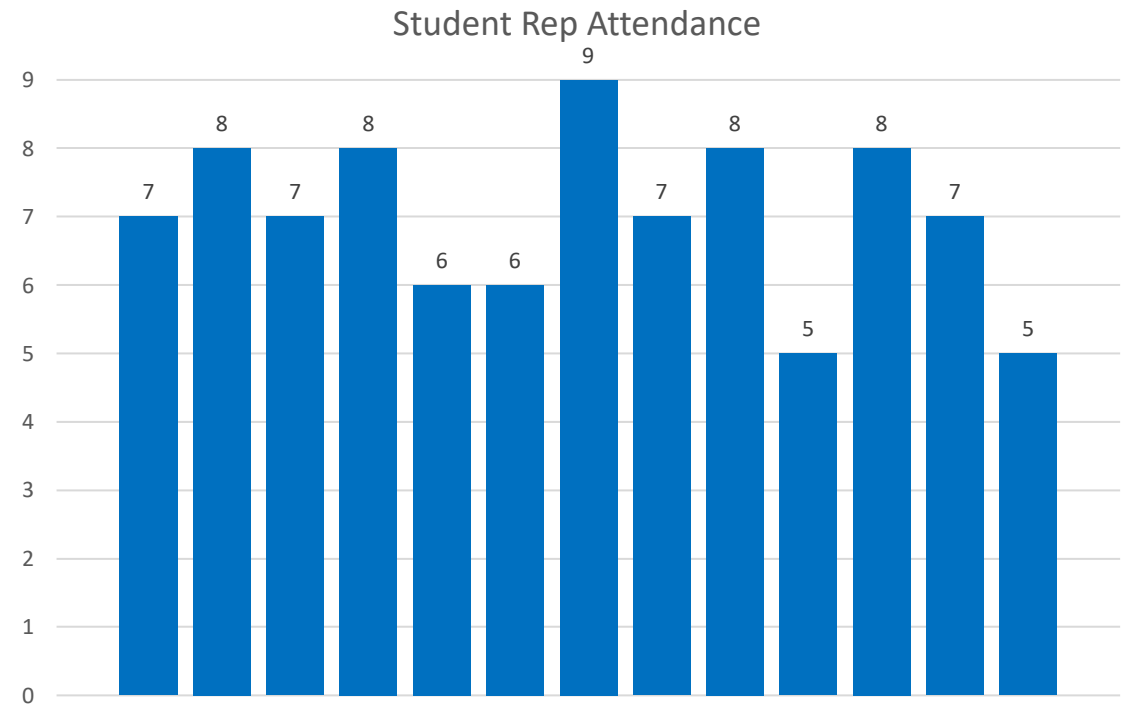
- EL-11
- EL-12
- Technology usage
- SELs
- Other policies that directly impact students

Why?

- Allow for meaningful student representative participation in each meeting
- Encourage more fluency in district policy for student reps
- Inspire future students to take an interest in board meetings

Student Rep Attendance

- Average attendance: 7/9 student reps
- Consistent attendance of over 55%
- Regular participation in board meetings asking questions and offering suggestions and student voice



Testimonials

from Student Reps with an Advisory Vote

- “Not only does an advisory vote allow the rep to give their honest opinion on the topic, but it also shows the district a much-needed student's perspective. As a rep, when the Arlington School District began our advisory voting, I immediately felt more important and appreciated for my ideas.”
 - Nathan Nichols, Arlington School District Student Representative
- “Advisory votes are a great way of making students feel heard. Everything that a school board does will somehow affect students and requires student input, and this is a great way to reflect that culture through your policy.”
 - Carter McKnight, South Whidbey School District

Questions?

Thank you!
