

Student Member of the Board of Education of Harford County Public Schools 25-26 Application Information Packet

Note that this packet is for informational purposes only. All parts of the application must be completed on [this digital Form](#).

Congratulations on taking the first step to run for this most prestigious of positions.

Being the student member of the Board of Education of Harford County is an exhilarating and challenging role that offers a unique opportunity to shape the educational landscape of the community while representing the voices and concerns of fellow students. It is a position of immense responsibility and privilege, one that demands dedication, passion, and a deep commitment to the betterment of education for all. Serving as the student member of the Board of Education is exciting because it provides a direct platform to advocate for student interests, perspectives, and needs within the educational system. As the liaison between students and the board, you have the chance to influence policies, programs, and decisions that directly impact the quality of education and the overall learning experience of your peers. This role empowers you to champion important issues.

Moreover, being part of the Board of Education offers unparalleled opportunities for personal and professional growth. It provides a platform to develop leadership skills, public speaking abilities, and a deeper understanding of governance and policy-making processes. Engaging with diverse stakeholders, including educators, administrators, parents, and community members, fosters collaboration, empathy, and a broader perspective on educational challenges and solutions.

However, alongside the excitement, being the student member of the Board of Education also comes with its fair share of challenges. Balancing academic responsibilities, extracurricular activities, and board commitments can be demanding and require effective time management and organizational skills. Moreover, navigating complex issues and addressing conflicting interests within the educational community requires diplomacy, critical thinking, and a willingness to listen and compromise.

In essence, being the student member of the Board of Education of Harford County is an exhilarating journey filled with opportunities for impact, growth, and meaningful contributions to the educational landscape of the community. It is a role that demands dedication, courage, and a relentless pursuit of excellence in service to the students and the greater good of the community.

Please read through the information in this packet thoroughly and take time to seriously consider and discuss with trusted adults your ability to commit to the requirements of your time, your energy, and your passion before making a commitment to declare your candidacy. If you have any questions, please email Supervisor of Social Sciences Erin Lange (Erin.Lange@hcps.org) and HCRASC Teacher Advisor Jennifer Kelley (Jennifer.Kelley@hcps.org).

Application Timeline

Saturday, February 22, 2025: *Potential candidates must attend a virtual informational session using the [Teams link found here](#).*

By March 11, 2025 by 11:59pm: *All parts of the application, including parent/guardian permission, teacher recommendation, and principal recommendation must be submitted.*

By Saturday, March 14: *Candidates who have been selected to advance to in-person interviews will be notified of their interview time and the process for the interview. Interviews will take place during the school day on Monday, March 17 and will last approximately 45 minutes per candidate.*

Monday, March 17: *In-person interviews will be conducted by the HCRASC Executive Board at the Roberty Building in Bel Air (102 S. Hickory Ave., Bel Air, 21015). Candidates will be evaluated using a rubric that assesses their readiness to serve as the Student Member of the Board (SMOB). The evaluation will be based on their application materials—including their essay, teacher recommendation, and principal recommendation—as well as their responses to interview questions. Specifically, the rubric will consider the candidate's understanding of the SMOB's role and responsibilities and their demonstration of key dispositions essential for success in this position.*

By Tuesday, March 18: *Up to five candidates will be selected by the HCRASC Executive Board to be on the ballot and will be informed of their continued candidacy. All other candidates will be informed that their candidacy will not be advancing to the ballot.*

April 10, 2025: *During the HCRASC General Assembly meeting, candidates will be expected to give a speech in-person in support of their candidacy and engage in a Question-and-Answer session with the representative body. Ballots per affiliated member schools will then be distributed based on the school's enrollment. There will be an in-person vote at the General Assembly and the winning candidate will be announced at the General Assembly meeting.*

July 1, 2025-June 30, 2026: *The winning candidate will assume their position of Student Member of the Board once they are sworn in.*

Application Parts/Requirements

To be completed by the student candidate:

- Essay explaining why they wish to become SMOB, including their goals and how they would like to impact the educational community
- Resume of activities that contribute to and demonstrate the characteristics that are applicable to the position of SMOB
- A photograph
- Request recommendation from a teacher and their current principal. The Candidate is responsible for providing the [link](#) to the teacher and principal.
- Request approval from their Parent/Guardian. The Candidate is responsible for providing the [link](#) to their Parent/Guardian and signing into Forms for the Parent/Guardian to complete the Form.

To be completed by parent/guardian of SMOB candidate:

- Attestation that the parent/guardian understands the commitment of the SMOB and affirms their support of their student's candidacy ([signed on Form](#); will need HCPS student to sign in to complete the Form)

To be completed by candidate's principal:

- Short answer Form responses to questions asking the teacher to attest to the candidate's qualities and qualifications that will make them an ideal candidate ([completed on Form](#))

To be completed by a teacher selected by the student:

- Short answer Form responses to questions asking the teacher to attest to the candidate's qualities and qualifications that will make them an ideal candidate ([completed on Form](#))

Student Member of the Board Requirements

In order to run, you must be a RISING senior (i.e. a current junior who will be a senior for the 2025-2026 school year). When you hold this position in your 2025-2026 term, you MUST be a current senior enrolled in a Harford County Public School high school. The SMOB must meet the Eligibility Requirements for Participation in Extra-curricular Activities in order to serve. The SMOB may not serve concurrently in any elected executive board or student government position. The student must have parental permission to serve. (Board Policy #22-0003-000)

Duties and Responsibilities of Student Representative

- a. Provide for adequate and effective communication to the Board as to student reactions to items under study and upon which the Board intends to take action.
- b. Facilitate communication between the student bodies and student councils and the Board, and provide an effective system through which the students of the Harford County Public Schools can be represented.
- c. Increase communication between the student bodies of the various public schools.
- d. Solicit opinions and thoughts which will be helpful in representing the students of the Harford County Public Schools.
- e. The representative will serve in an advisory capacity as the liaison between the student constituents and the Board.
- f. The representative will be required to attend public sessions of the Board and sit with the Board, receiving agendas and all other pertinent materials.
- g. The representative will have the right to request that items be placed on the agenda.
- h. The representative must provide his/her own transportation to Board meetings and other schools as necessary.
- i. The representative will study Board materials and be prepared to discuss items of student interest and concern as requested by the Board.
- j. The representative will be required to cast a preferential vote or will abstain.
- k. The student representative will be compensated for expenses by approved voucher.