



Charter for the Hays CISD Board & Superintendent Student Advisory Panel

PREAMBLE

The Hays CISD Board & Superintendent Student Advisory Panel was created in 2017 to expand opportunities for student voice to be included in major district decisions. Additionally, the group allows students to serve in important leadership roles, while learning powerful lessons about organizational management, operations, governance, civic engagement, and collaborative decision-making.

Article 1: NAME

The official name of the group is the Hays Consolidated Independent School District Board & Superintendent Student Advisory Panel. Acceptable abridged versions of the name include: the Hays CISD Board & Superintendent Student Advisory Panel, the Student Advisory Panel, or the panel.

Article 2: PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

The purpose of the Student Advisory Panel, is:

Dialogue: To discuss with each other and members of administration and the Board of Trustees happenings and concerns at campuses and within the district as a whole.

Perspective: To review high profile Board of Trustees agenda items or major district initiatives and provide a student viewpoint.

Action: To engage in projects that benefit fellow classmates, the district, and the community.

The objectives of the Student Advisory Panel are:

1. To promote the interests of all students in Hays CISD in order to create a safe, inclusive, respectful, and productive learning and school environment.
2. To express its views and present proposals to the school leadership in matters relating to school and community business and decisions.
3. To ensure on-going communication among all members of the school community.

Article 3: STUDENT MEMBERSHIP

Regular Student Membership:

Regular student membership consists of two students per grade level representing each comprehensive high school with a population of 800 or more total students. Specialized high schools that have fewer than 800 students enrolled may have two regular student members serve on the panel representing all grade levels.

Panel representatives apply to join the group and are selected by the administration of the campuses they represent. Freshmen should be appointed to the panel before the start of the second semester of their freshman year. Vacancies that occur on the panel should be filled by campuses as soon as possible after the vacancy occurs.

To promote long-range teambuilding and perspective, growth in confidence and leadership, and continuity of multi-year projects or issue discussions, each regular student member serves a term on the panel that begins with their appointment to the panel (regardless of grade level) and lasts until they graduate high school.

Special Student Membership:

To expand opportunity for students and to provide additional student voice, each high school, whether comprehensive or specialized, shall have the option to appoint up to two special student members to the Student Advisory Panel at any given time. Each special student member serves a term that begins with their appointment to the panel and lasts until the end of the school year in which they were appointed. Special student members may serve up to four terms on the panel.

Campus principals and the superintendent of schools have the discretion to remove students from the panel at any time, and for any reason, should either determine the removal is in the best interest of the student, the campus, or the district.

Article 4: STUDENT LEADERSHIP TITLES

By nature of the selection process and purpose of the panel; all students, regardless of membership category, who serve on the panel are considered to have earned a student leadership position at their campus and in the district. Accordingly, each representative on the panel holds the title: Special Advisor to the Superintendent and Board President on Student Matters. And, all students may refer to themselves as representatives serving on the Board & Superintendent Student Advisory Panel. Students who are seniors may use the title: Senior Advisor to the Superintendent and Board President on Student Matters.

For the purposes of resumes and college applications, students may cite the purposes and objectives in Article 2 as the duties or responsibilities that accompany their titles and positions on the panel.

Article 5: ADULT SPONSORS & PANEL FACILITATION

The adult sponsors of the panel include: the superintendent of schools, the president of the Board of Trustees, and up to two additional school board members at the assignment and discretion of the Board president.

Meetings shall be facilitated by the school district office or department designated by the superintendent.

Article 6: MEETINGS

The panel will meet monthly with the superintendent and Board president to affect its duties that are delineated in Article 2. When possible, students will also tour district facilities and infrastructure to learn more about school district leadership and operations.

Article 6: CHANGES TO THE CHARTER

The superintendent of schools may, at any time, amend or make changes to this charter without any other needed authorization.

Students may propose changes to the charter to the superintendent of schools. Upon approval of the superintendent, and a majority vote of student representatives in attendance when the vote occurs, student-initiated changes to the charter shall be considered adopted.