



Greater Essex County District School Board Student Senate



Constitution

Article I - Name

- 1.1** This organization shall be known as the Greater Essex County District School Board Student Senate. It shall be herein referred to as the GECDSSB or the Senate.

Article II - Mission Statement

- 2.1** The GECDSSB exists to provide a forum for all student voices of the Greater Essex County District School Board to be heard and represented at every decision-making level.
- 2.2** The GECDSSB shall provide Student Parliaments with information pertinent to current issues facing education as requested by members of the GECDSSB or as seen fit by the Chair(s) of the GECDSSB.
- 2.3** The GECDSSB shall provide a forum for productive, intelligent, non-partisan discussion of educational issues as well as collaboration on system-wide initiatives.

Article III - Governance and Membership

- 3.1** The GECDSSB shall be chaired by the Student Trustee(s) of the Greater Essex County District School Board.
- 3.2** Each secondary school shall be represented by no less than one (1) and no more than three (3) representatives of each school. It is customary for representatives to consist of the Student Parliament leader, deputy leader, and one additional member which may be a rotating member.
- 3.3** Representatives shall be appointed by their respective school's Principal, or designate.

Article IV - Meetings

- 4.1** GECDSSB meetings shall take place at the GECDSSB Administration Office. Arrangements may be made for meetings to be held at an alternate venue or electronically, provided adequate notice is given to all members.
- 4.2** Regular meetings shall be held 11 times a year at a rate of once per month (excluding the month of July) at a date determined by the Director of Education or administration liaison.
- 4.3** Members may request extra/special meetings of the GECDSSB by notifying the Director of Education or administration liaison no less than one week (7 days) prior to the proposed meeting date.
- 4.4** Meetings may be cancelled due to inclement weather, lack of attendance or other circumstances at the discretion of the Director of Education or administrative liaison. Members shall be given reasonable notice of cancellation.
- 4.5** GECDSSB Elementary schools may choose to elect or appoint no more than two (2) student representatives to attend GECDSSB meetings. This may be done at any time and may be done on a permanent or ad-hoc basis. It is the recommendation of the GECDSSB that elementary school attendee(s) be in Grades 7 or 8.

Article V - Voting

- 5.1** Whenever possible, the GECDSSB shall attempt to take action by reaching consensus.
- 5.2** When voting is to take place, each school present shall receive one vote.
- 5.3** Votes shall be indicated by a show of hands or by secret ballot. The method of voting is left to the discretion of the Chair(s), however a member may request a secret ballot on any issue, in which case the vote shall be cast by secret ballot.
- 5.4** Votes shall be called at the discretion of the Chair(s) at any time.
- 5.5** Votes that result in the GECDSSB taking an official position shall require at least 60% of secondary schools be present at the time of voting.

Article VI - Amendments

- 6.1** Any member present may propose an amendment to the constitution, however, a notice of motion must be made at the prior meeting.

- 6.2** Amendments to the constitution require that at least 60% of secondary schools be present at the time of voting.
- 6.3** Amendments to the constitution require a majority vote (more than 50%) of all members present at an eligible meeting.

Article VII- Standing Committees

- 7.1** The GECDSSB shall strike the following standing committees at the start of each school year:
- a) Student Trustee Election Committee**
Members of the Student Trustee Election Committee are tasked with:
 - i. promoting the Expression of Interest for Student Trustee to the GECDSSB secondary students and school communities; and
 - ii. reviewing the election process on an annual basis and bringing any proposed amendments to the GECDSSB for approval.
 - b) Student Leadership Conference Committee**
Members of the Student Leadership Conference Committee are tasked with:
 - i. promoting the conference to GECDSSB students and schools;
 - ii. providing suggestions for content and format; and
 - iii. taking on leadership roles during the conference as needed.
 - c) Student Leadership Scholarship Committee**
Members of the Student Senate Leadership Scholarship Committee are tasked with:
 - i. promoting the Scholarship to GECDSSB secondary students and school communities;
 - ii. reviewing student applications and contributing to discussions; and
 - iii. reviewing the criteria and selection process on an annual basis.
- 7.2** The rules and guidelines set out in this constitution shall apply to the Standing Committees of the GECDSSB.

Article VIII – Student Trustee Administrative Procedure

- 8.1** Any member present may propose an amendment to an article of the Student Trustee Administrative Procedure, provided that article is not mandated by the Education Act. A notice of motion must be given at a prior meeting.
- 8.2** Amendments to the Student Trustee Administrative Procedure require that at least 60% of secondary schools be present at the time of voting.

- 8.3** Amendments to the Student Trustee Administrative Procedure require a 2/3 vote (67%) of all members present at an eligible meeting.