

My name is Zaria Naqvi, and for over five years, I have been devoted to amplifying the voices of students throughout Maryland, from the halls of my high school to state-level policymaking. Raised by parents who didn't have the right to vote in this country, I learned early on the importance of representation – the power of democracy isn't just in casting a ballot but in ensuring every voice is heard and valued. Their resilience inspired me to persevere and lead with empathy – values that have shaped me as I work with a community of student leaders sharing my vision for a better, more equitable future.

This community is my anchor. In my most challenging moments, I have drawn strength from those who share my vision for a better future and care deeply about the issues that define our generation. We have fostered a shared purpose: to turn compassion into meaningful action and tackle the challenges that matter most to us, from educational equity to mental health. At our core, we all share a deep capacity to care for one another. We believe in kindness, equity, and the unwavering strength of collective action to drive change. Together, our shared empathy compels us to connect as a community—to hear each other's stories, feel each other's struggles, and work collaboratively toward solutions that uplift everyone.

One significant challenge that has shaped my advocacy journey is school safety. Listening to my friends express their fears and frustrations about school safety, I felt a profound responsibility to amplify their stories. In response, I became a student panelist on multiple national webinars hosted by the U.S. Department of Education, the National Center for School Safety, and the National Academy of Sciences. In these webinars, I shared the raw realities of students' experiences, compelling policymakers to develop safer, more student-centered solutions. Through my role as the SMOB of the Maryland Center for School Safety (MCSS), I further shaped Maryland policies to ensure solutions were effectively implemented in your schools.

Throughout my journey as a student leader since sixth grade, I've realized something important: it is easy to care about issues. I have faith that all of you care about the problems that make up my platform, including educational gaps, mental health, representation, and more. But caring is just the baseline. True advocacy requires more than passion; it demands unwavering determination. Even when I've faced challenges, I've found comfort and strength in channeling my energy toward bettering our state and supporting students like you.

For over five years, I have poured my heart into this work, learning to balance it with the demands of school and life because I know how much is at stake for the students of Maryland. This is why I am ready to be your Student Member of the Board of Education. I will be an empathetic, knowledgeable, and reliable leader. I won't only respond to the issues you bring to me but will actively search for the hidden challenges affecting students across our state. Each day, I will commit to amplifying and representing the diverse voices of Maryland. I promise to stand with you, to fight for you, and to put your needs first. This is more than a role to me; it is my purpose, passion, and promise to you.

# Zaria Naqvi

Instagram: @zaria4statesmob

## EDUCATION

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*High School Junior* (expected graduation 2026), **Winston Churchill High School**, Potomac, MD Expected June 2026

- **GPA:** 4.94 W | 4.00 UW | 300+ Service Hours
- **School President:** Advocated for student concerns, collaborated with administration on initiatives, and organized fundraisers to enhance school culture and community engagement (2023-current).
- **Coursework:** AP Computer Programming Java, AP Computer Science Principles, AP Calculus AB, AP Physics 1, AP Psychology, AP Language, AP Biology, Multivariable Calculus, AP United States Government and Politics.

## EXPERIENCES

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*Student Advisory Board Member*, **Maryland Center for School Safety (MCSS)**, Maryland May 2023 - Present

- Hosted three town halls to gather student feedback, influencing safety policies.
- Nominated panelist for webinars on school safety: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for School Safety, and the National Academy of Sciences.
- Rebuilt the Student Advocates for School Safety group with 30+ members statewide.
- Launched a program for school safety clubs recognized on the MCSS website.
- Student Liaison, MCSS Subcabinet (2023–2024).

*School Safety Coordinator*, **Maryland Association of Student Council (MASC)**, Maryland May 2022 - Present

- Partnered with MCSS to lead school safety initiatives and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) webinars.
- Created and facilitated certified workshops on DEI, school safety, parliamentary procedure, and the Maryland General Assembly.
- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Coordinator, MASC (2022–2023).

*Legislative Chair & Executive Board Member*, **Maryland Youth Advisory Council**, Maryland August 2023 - Present

- Organized community engagement initiatives, including a hybrid conversation on the Maryland Blueprint, and disbursed \$5,000 in grants to five youth-led organizations.
- Advocated for youth issues by providing testimony on key legislative bills and presenting at MENTOR Maryland | DC Advocacy Day and American University's Teen Mental Health Seminar.

*Advocacy and Policy Chief of Staff*, **Montgomery County Regional SGA (MCR)**, Maryland June 2022 - Present

- Supervised and planned MCR's Advocacy Day, Capitol Hill trips, and legislative activities.
- Managed three MCR departments: Educational Policy, Legislative Affairs, and Task Forces.
- Community Engagement Chief of Staff (2023–2024) and Finance Deputy (2022–2023).

*Events & Operation Director*, **Intern for Lynne Harris (Board of Education)**, Maryland August 2021 - Present

- Organized student trips to Annapolis and monthly stakeholder meetings.
- Provided input on DEI, school safety, and mental health policies, contributing to white papers that shaped board decisions.
- DEI and Graduation Requirements Committee Member (2021-2024).

*Budget Director*, **Student Member of the Board Advisory Council (SAC)**, Maryland August 2021 - Present

- Reviewed MCPS budget updates and proposals, including the Capital Budget and Capital Improvements Program (CIP).
- Served on the Montgomery County Budget Advisory Committee (BAC), providing student representations on a board of adults to enhance financial transparency and accountability.
- Policy Director (2023–2024), Diversity Coordinator (2022–2023), and General Member (2021–2022).

## EXTRANEIOUS EXTRACURRICULAR & AWARDS

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**Extraneous Extracurriculars:** School President (2023–current), Kids4Code Manager (2023–current), Montgomery County Junior Council Treasurer (2021–2022), MoCo for Change WCHS Vice President.

**Awards:** AP Scholar, Superintendent's Service Award, and Silver and Bronze Star Engagement Awards.