

Meet the Candidates

For the Student Member on the
State Board of Education



**Maryland Association
of Student Councils**



SMOB Candidates' Statements & Résumés



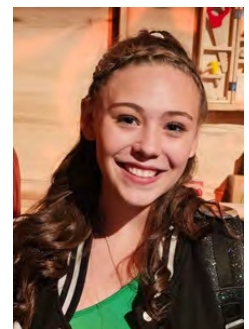
Candidates in Alphabetical Order

Abhiram Gaddam

Wicomico County

Jordan Hayes

Calvert County



Delegates may also wish to view these candidate's introductory speeches (<https://flip.com/384324b7>)

The candidate resumes and statements have been prepared by the candidates and do not necessarily represent the views of the Maryland Association of Student Councils (MASC). MASC cannot assure the accuracy of the statements contained in the document. The profiles are printed in an unedited form.

Abhiram Gaddam

Instagram: @abhiforsmob

Student

EXPERIENCE

Brand Representative

Hollister Co., Salisbury, Maryland

Sep 2023 - Present

Assembly Worker

MaTech Solutions, Salisbury, Maryland

Jul 2023 - Sep 2023

Internship Student

Sentinel Robotics Solutions Group, Wallops Island, Virginia

Jun 2023 - Sep 2023

Volunteer

TidalHealth, SALISBURY, Maryland

Jun 2022 - Aug 2022

Volunteer

GULLS Robotics, SALISBURY, Maryland

Jun 2022 - Aug 2022

Volunteer

HALO, SALISBURY, Maryland

Jun 2021 - Aug 2021

Volunteer

Ward Museum of Wildfowl Art, SALISBURY, Maryland

Jun 2021 - Aug 2021

EDUCATION

High School Diploma

Parkside High School, Salisbury

Service Hours: 200+

GPA 4.0

Expected graduation May 2025

Relevant Coursework

- College Board SAT Score - 1560
- AP Physics 1
- AP United States Government & Politics
- AP Calculus AB
- PLTW - Principles of Engineering
- Journalism
- AP United States History
- AP Statistics & Probability
- AP English Language
- PLTW - Introduction to Engineering & Design
- PLTW - Digital Electronics

Extracurricular Activities

- Wicomico County Robotics Club - Team Captain, CAD Designer, Engineering Notebook Keeper, Middle School Team Mentor (5 yrs)
- Mu Alpha Theta National Honor Society - Student Member (2 yrs)
- Stock Market Club - Co-Founder and Team Leader (2 yrs)
- Math Team - Competitor (2 yrs)
- Parkside Mock Trial - Attorney/Witness (1 yr)
- First Lego League - Mentor (2 yrs)
- Science National Honor Society - Student Member (2 yrs)
- Leo Club - Member & Volunteer (2 yrs)
- National Honor Society - Student Member (2 yrs)
- Robot Combat Event - Competitor (1 yr)

AWARDS

- VEX Robotics Competition World Championship Qualification
- Certificate of Recognition from the City of Salisbury for VEX World Championship Attendance
- College Board AP Scholar Award
- Academic Excellence Award

Hi everyone! My name is Abhiram Gaddam, and I'm so excited to be running for your next Maryland SMOB! I'm a junior at Parkside High School in Wicomico County, part of the Eastern Shore area. It's a part of Maryland with a rich heritage, but being left often overlooked we are not exposed to opportunities like SMOB or MASC, or even given the same resources as other areas. My background growing up in a community like this has instilled in me a deep commitment to represent the voices of the underrepresented. I've witnessed firsthand the impact of these challenges on our education, coming from such an area. However, I think it's crucial to recognize that students from underserved backgrounds, whether in Wicomico or across the state, share common struggles. The issues of imbalance resource allocation, limited access to advanced courses and extracurriculars, and more resonate beyond just the Eastern Shore.

For me, this opportunity is not just a candidacy; it's a pledge for me to represent the goals, challenges, and diversity of Maryland's student body on the highest platform for state education. As your Maryland SMOB, I'm here for all of us, regardless of where we're from. That's why I aim to approach the position of SMOB as a link between the Board of Ed and the students, and advocate for measurable changes that can be implemented soon. My devoted responsibility is to represent the future students of Maryland schools by creating a resourceful environment which they can all thrive in. The policies we enact now will have a greater impact on the current children that are soon to become student leaders in their communities.

Hearing the voices of those who feel overlooked and ensuring that their concerns are at the forefront of educational discussions is my highest priority. Transparency, accessibility, and inclusivity are the pillars that guide my approach to student advocacy. I recognize the need for and will work to create policies that address the root causes of educational disparities and create measurable, positive changes for all students in Maryland. If selected as SMOB, I am committed to thoroughly listening to the needs of the student body, ensuring that each student's voice is not only heard, but valued.

The role of a student member on the Maryland State Board of Education is all about advocacy. Advocacy for the youth of Maryland and for the diverse voices that make up our state. I bring a fresh perspective to the table, one that reflects the rich diversity of our state. My vision for all Maryland schools is simple: every student should be given the same opportunities to reach their highest potential. I want to be the person that shows that our unique backgrounds are our strengths, not our limitations.

Jordan Hayes

Finalist for Maryland Student Member on the Board of Education

Instagram - @jordan4mdsmob

Platforms

Availability - I am an AVAILABLE resource. Increase the knowledge and understanding of available resources to students.

Accessibility - I am an ACCESSIBLE representative. Stand for the diverse variety of causes which support the MD Student Population

Adaptability - I am an ADAPTABLE leader. Work to make the Blueprint adaptable to each student's needs and how they progress over time.

Experience

- **Board of Education, Calvert County** *2023 - Present*
 - As a representative, advocate, and voice of over 15,000 students, I have learned how to represent a diverse group of people and experiences.
- **Maryland Association of Student Councils, Student Workshop Coordinator** *2022 - Present*
 - By planning, creating, and preparing leadership-based workshops I have developed a deep understanding of what an effective leader is and how to be one.
- **Patuxent High School, Varsity Cheer Captain and Co Captain** *2023 - Present*
 - By working with a group of tightly bonded teammates I am able to refine leadership skills, upkeep relationships, and combine advocacy into the sport I love!
- **Patuxent High School, Class President** *2021 - Present*
 - As a representative of my class, I have learned how to effectively communicate with a plethora of people and how to cater to various student needs.

Events

- **CCPS Student Forum** *November '23*
 - An open forum for all students of all ages enrolled in Calvert County Public Schools to express their wants and needs and to work together to take action.
- **SMOB Voting Rights Discussion** *January '24*
 - Met with a large group of students to provide insight and information regarding SMOB voting rights and its development over the past few years.

Education

- **Patuxent High School, 4.34 GPA** *Graduating Class of 2025*

Skills

- Communication
- Time Management
- Leadership
- Advocacy
- Adaptability
- Creativity

A Letter to Maryland Students

Dear Maryland Student,

Hi! My name is Jordan Hayes, I'm a Junior at Patuxent High School (it's okay if you can't pronounce it), and I am so incredibly ecstatic to have the opportunity to serve *you* as the next Student Member on the Maryland State Board of Education! This is a goal I have had for myself since the moment I became a part of the student advocacy experience. I have been involved in Student Government and advocacy on various levels since the 6th grade. Through the organizations, events, and conferences I have become involved in I have discovered my greatest passions: **representation and advocacy in education**. I have strived to pursue this passion through my involvement in the MD Legislative Session, serving as a Student Workshop Coordinator for the Maryland Association of Student Councils, and my favorite endeavor thus far, serving as the Calvert County SMOB! Pursuing my passion has led me to meet people who have changed and shaped my life. It has led me to discover how much I love giving back to my community and peers. The joy I have found through this journey has built me up to this moment, this opportunity to accomplish the goal I have set for myself and worked tirelessly towards for the past 5 years.

Fun fact about me, I love learning! I've always been one of those kids who is excited to wake up for school in the morning. I didn't start realizing until about middle school that I was one of the few. So, how could I change that? **How can I make more people excited about their education?** Well, I can tell you from experience, not everyone will be excited about education, or going to school, or sitting through a boring class. But, I can work to reshape what education is and make it serve every student as best as possible. I am a candidate that is **For your Future**. I am not one to fight alone and stand on a pedestal and tell you I'm doing everything I can when I'm really not. I *am* one who will fight alongside you, one who will be your peer, your support, and most importantly your friend. I am here. I have goals; ones that are meant to put *you* on a path towards your greatest successes.

I know I seem like I've been rambling, so let's get into the nitty-gritty, my platform. There are three main parts; **AVAILABILITY, ACCESSIBILITY, and ADAPTABILITY**. I am available. As a peer, mentor, ear, or friend. I am accessible. Anytime, anywhere. I am adaptable. In any circumstance to change and overcome.

Here are the main points; what I want you to take away from me and my game plan.

AVAILABILITY: I will work diligently to increase knowledge of resources available to students in Maryland, and work with you to determine what resources we need and where we can **support success**.

ACCESSIBILITY: I will work to advocate for a diverse variety of causes important to you to make Maryland education more **accessible to all students**.

ADAPTABILITY: I will work to make the Blueprint for Maryland's Future capable of change in application and build learning environments that **grow with you**.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter, I am beyond excited to begin our journey together and make Maryland Education just as amazing as we know it can be! :)

Sincerely,

Jordan Hayes