



In the Spotlight

MASC is Proud to Highlight our Students Serving on Maryland's Boards of Education

Student Members on Boards of Education (SMOB)
Student Representative on the Board of Education (Carroll County)
Student Commissioner on the Board of School Commissioners (Baltimore City)

All Information is Unedited – (Posted as shared to MASC)

Allegheny County: Eowyn Hansrote

Eowyn is currently the Student Board Member for Allegheny County Public Schools and a senior at Mountain Ridge High School. She has been involved in student council for a number of years holding the position of secretary and being a class delegate. Eowyn cares about all students in Allegheny County, and strives to be their voice so they get the education they want and need to be successful in life. During her term, she would like to help students who struggle with mental health, and help resolve the vaping problems in our schools. In her spare time, she is the Assistant Stage Manager for musicals and the youth representative for her church council.



Anne Arundel County: Hafsa Hamdaoui



Hafsa Hamdaoui was elected to represent the students of Anne Arundel County Public Schools on the Board of Education in April 2024 and began her one-year term as the 51st Student Member of the Board (SMOB) on July 1, 2024. Hafsa is a senior at Crofton High School. Her educational journey has spanned multiple countries and cultures. She has lived in Oklahoma, Maryland, England, Morocco, and the United Arab Emirates before settling in Crofton, bringing a diverse perspective to her role on the Board.

Hafsa is committed to student leadership and service learning. She serves as an executive on the AACPS Student Service-Learning Leadership Team, where she helps coordinate county-wide service initiatives. She also interns with the AACPS Service Department. Additionally, Hafsa is a member of the Maryland Civic Education Coalition's Youth Advisory Council, promoting civic engagement and education at the state level.

At Crofton High School, Hafsa is actively involved in the school community. She is a team captain and founding member of the school's Mock Trial Team, active in Model UN, and engaged in service at the Crofton level. She also serves on the executive committee of the International Night Club, where she has helped organize events and raise funds for international children's causes.

During her term, Hafsa has prioritized equity and mental health initiatives, focusing on extracurricular and class offering equity across the county.

Baltimore City: Dylan Rooks

Dylan Rooks was born and raised in Baltimore, Maryland. He is a proud student of City Schools and an 11th grader at Baltimore City College High School. During his first term as Student Commissioner, Dylan voted on the extension of the CEO's contract and school renewal decisions. He has striven to meet students around Baltimore City and to be their voice in the education system. Dylan's leadership experience started early, as an SGA President in his elementary/middle school, where he served as a trusted resource for students and teachers. Today, as a junior at Baltimore City College High School, Dylan continues to exemplify excellence in leadership and academics. He is thriving in rigorous coursework, including Advanced Placement classes, and has already taken AP exams. Beyond his academic achievements, Dylan remains deeply committed to representing the voices of his peers. As a member of the Elijah Cummings Youth Program and president of the Men of City mentorship organization, he demonstrates an unwavering dedication to advocacy and positive change.



Carroll County: Chloe Kang



Chloe is a current senior and the Student Representative on the Board of Education (SROB) in Carroll County. Previously, she was Parliamentarian for Carroll County Student Government Association (CCSGA) and on the Civic Engagement Committee on MASC. She competed in the National German Olympics and was awarded the Carson Scholarship and will be attending the University of Pennsylvania for a dual degree in International Studies and Business with concentrations in German and Finance.

As SROB, Chloe has supported a diverse education by advocating the use of budgeting to pay for AP tests and Dual Enrollment classes and expanding course selections for the new school year. She also created an amendment to shift public comment submission deadlines a day earlier to provide students more opportunities to interact with Board policies. Her main priority now is to create a Student Advisory Council to provide students a direct line of communication to her. Alongside her work with the Board, Chloe focuses on supporting student leadership as an Executive Board member on CCSGA by creating new workshops for delegates. Currently, she is working on rolling out a workshop series on college applications to support and prepare incoming seniors for the journey.

Calvert County: Grace Minakowski

Grace Minakowski, Calvert County Public Schools Student Member of the Board of Education, is a senior at Huntingtown High School and also serves as the Maryland Association of Student Councils Special Issues Director. Throughout her term, she has championed student free expression, expanded Code of Conduct rights, and extracurricular programming. Outside her regular meetings, Ms. Minakowski served on the Revision Committee for the CCPS Student Code of Conduct, specifically focusing on reforming cell phone, dress code, and progressive discipline policy. Working with CCPS's Social Studies Supervisor, she became the first Student Member of the Board to draft and pass a policy resolution, and she has collaborated with her school system's Superintendent & principals to promote the policy to the school community. Grace has also created a 40+ member Student



Advisory Council that meets monthly with student representation from each secondary school, passed changes to her district's equity & discrimination policy to be inclusive of students with disabilities, collaborated with CCPS's Student Services Supervisor to create a "Student Rights and Responsibilities" workgroup to gather policy feedback, and attended various student & civic events throughout the county. She will be attending Duke University in Fall 2025.

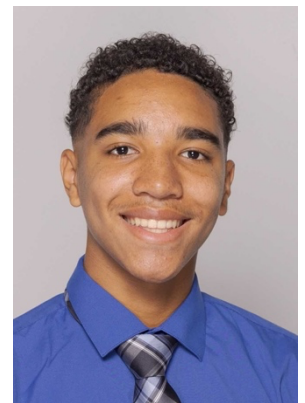
Charles County: Sam Virk



Sam Virk is a North Point High School senior and Student Member of the Board of Education for the 2024-2025 school year. Virk has built leadership experience by serving as the captain of the North Point Cross Country team. Recognizing the value of uplifting emerging learners so they can be tomorrow's leaders, Virk also tutors students as a member of North Point's Math Honor Society chapter. Virk co-founded the club Philoso-Tea (Philosophy and Tea) at North Point to encourage philosophical debate and inquiry in his community. Participation in several Model UN conferences has provided Virk with delegation and public speaking experience. During his term, he aims to bridge the gap of awareness and representation between students and administration of Charles County, as well as improve the college and career readiness of the county's students. Outside of his studies, Virk has been a player in North Point's wind and jazz ensembles, and marching band. He enjoys learning punk and metal music on his electric guitar in his spare time.

Frederick County: Elijah Steele

Elijah Steele is a senior at Governor Thomas Johnson High School and serves as the SMOB for the 2024-2025 academic year. He has taken the lead on advocating for student needs, including pushing for later school start times to promote student well-being. He is also working to secure full voting rights for the student members, ensuring their voice is heard and has a meaningful impact on Board of Education decisions. Beyond the SMOB, he manages the boys' basketball team, serves as treasurer of the Black Student Union, and is active in student government. With unwavering commitment, he is changing the way people think and act in his school, striving to amplify student voices and address issues directly. He is focused on creating systemic changes that build student influence, affirm mental health, and transform educational policies. Elijah is leading the charge to question outdated practices and collaborate to ensure that each student's voice is represented in the decisions that shape their future, creating a stronger, more inclusive, and equitable educational environment. His commitment to change is laying the foundation for future student members of the board to have more influence and better opportunities to make an even greater impact.



Garrett County: Cadence Natividad



Cadence Natividad is honored to serve as the Student Member of the Garrett County Board of Education, where she focuses on removing communication barriers and connecting with all students across Garrett County Public Schools. A passionate advocate for community engagement, Cadence is an Ambassador Scout with Girl Scout Troop 55004 and Junior President of the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 71.

At Southern Garrett High School, Cadence serves as Secretary of the Student Council and is an active member of the Mock Trial, Varsity Tennis, and Unified Bocce teams. She is also on the Executive Board for the Garrett County Association of Student Councils (GCASC). She represents her peers on the School Health Council and the Public Schools Equity Advisory Board.

Her achievements include Third Place in the Maryland State American Legion Oratorical Contest, the Girl Scout Silver and Bronze Awards, First Place in the National American Legion Poppy Poster Contest, and the prestigious Garrett County Woman of Tomorrow award. Cadence's passion for inclusivity and community service is influenced by her family's diverse background and her desire to support youth, veterans, and vulnerable individuals. Through her initiatives, she strives to foster inclusivity, elevate student voices, and strengthen her school community.

Montgomery County: Praneel Suvarna

Praneel Suvarna is the Student Member of the Board (SMOB) for Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS), representing over 160,000 students. Prior to becoming SMOB, he served as Vice President of the Montgomery County Regional Student Government Association (MCR), where he successfully advocated for the creation of MCR's first drug and opioid taskforce. Praneel also helped coordinate the Save-A-Student Summit, an event where hundreds of students received free Narcan and opioid prevention training.



As a three-time class president, Praneel has led initiatives to enhance student engagement and school culture. He developed a program to improve communication between students and administrators, organized fundraising efforts for prom and senior events, and contributed to his class winning the Homecoming Hallway competition three out of four years.

As SMOB, Praneel has made addressing the opioid crisis in schools a top priority. He spearheaded efforts to expand Narcan training across MCPS, ensuring all security assistants are equipped with this life-saving medication. Additionally, he championed a comprehensive mental health resolution, passed unanimously by the board, to better organize and expand mental health resources in the district.

Praneel is excited to continue his work through the rest of his term and the other organizations he is a part of.

St. Mary's County: Hannah Heisler



Hannah Heisler is the Student Member of the Board of Education (SMOB) of St. Mary's County. She is a senior at Leonardtown High School, where she is the Student Government Association President and the National Honor Society President. As the SMOB, her two large initiatives have been school visits and the Superintendent's Student Leadership Advisory Council (SSLAC). She has decided to visit every elementary school, where she will present and speak with every 5th grader in the county, with the goal to understand the differences between schools and make the SMOB position more accessible for all ages. She reports on school visits in Board of Education meetings, so each board member has a firm grasp of the strengths and weaknesses of each school. She also leads the SSLAC, which includes 2-3 students of each grade at each high school. She leads them in activities to identify issues within current school policies and propose solutions to the Superintendent. As the former St. Mary's Association of Student Councils (SMASC) President, Hannah works closely with the SMASC officers to use her position in tandem with SMASC's interests. She presents to SMASC's middle and high school delegates to make her position more transparent. Next year, Hannah will be attending Williams College, where she plans to major in political science!

Washington County – Daphne Wang

Daphne Wang is the 39th Student Member of the Washington County Board of Education. A senior at North Hagerstown High School, Daphne is enrolled in the International Baccalaureate Program and has been involved in student government throughout the past 4 years. During this time, she has served on the Washington County Association of Student Councils' Board of Student Leaders as an At-Large Member and as a State Legislative Affairs Coordinator for the Maryland Association of Student Councils - a position she still currently holds. As SMOB, Daphne hopes to indelibly expand the position's presence amongst Washington County students for the purposes of diversifying and enlarging the voices of young people within the systems that directly affect them. The impact that she wishes to leave at the end of her term is to reform the SMOB electoral process to allow all secondary students in WCPS to have the right to vote for their Student Member of the Board.



