



Maryland Association of Student Councils

*Affiliated with the National Association of Student Councils
Maryland Association of Student Councils is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.*

September 2026

Dear Principal:

Under **Education Article §2-202** of the Maryland General Assembly Statute, the Governor is authorized to appoint a **Student Member of the Board (SMOB)** to the Maryland State Board of Education. This legislation, first approved in 1985 and amended in 2007, designates the **Maryland Association of Student Councils (MASC)** to nominate two students for the Governor's consideration. From these nominees, the Governor will appoint one student to serve a **one-year term** on the State Board.

The responsibilities of this position are extensive. A detailed position description is enclosed for your reference (**Attachment A**). The student member will spend one to two days each month attending State Board meetings. Significant preparation time is required before each meeting to review policies and programs scheduled for action or discussion. In addition to the monthly meetings, the student member will devote approximately two weeks per year to attending the Maryland Association of Boards of Education (MABE) convention, the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) conference, and other State Board workshops or retreats.

It is time to select nominees for the Governor's consideration for the next SMOB. **Each public high school in Maryland may nominate one student** for this position. Membership in MASC is not required.

The nominee must:

- Be regularly enrolled in a Maryland public high school
- Be in good standing
- **Be a junior or senior as of July 1, 2027** (current sophomores or juniors)

The school's nomination process may be conducted through a student body election or determined by the Student Council or its Executive Board. Please nominate the most capable sophomore or junior who could effectively serve in this role.

The student appointed by the Governor will serve a one-year term on the State Board of Education, from July 1, 2027, to June 30, 2028.

If your school chooses to nominate a student for this position, we recommend identifying the nominee as early as possible to allow ample time to prepare their application packet. A letter to the selected student is attached (**Attachment B**).

Students who have been identified or have expressed interest in applying for SMOB are strongly encouraged to attend the **virtual SMOB Informational Webinar on October 6, 2026**. Registration for this session is available on the MASC website: <https://mdstudentcouncils.org/index.php/student-member-on-the-board-of-education/>

School nominations must be submitted by 5:00 p.m. on Monday, November 16, 2026 using this Google Form (<https://forms.gle/jK5kuFmd8fN5GDEQ7>). Only the **school principal or their designee** may submit the nomination — students may not submit the form themselves.

Once MASC receives a school's nomination, the student nominee will be notified. Nominees should coordinate with their school administration to ensure the deadline is met.

The student nominee must complete an **online application** and upload the following:

- A one-page résumé
- Three essay responses
- A video recording explaining why they want to serve as the Student Member of the State Board of Education (**Attachment C**)

In addition, **four recommendations** — one from each of the following — must be submitted using this Google Form (<https://forms.gle/LXT4ieeSDboerUqK7>):

1. School principal
2. Teacher
3. Student council or student activity advisor
4. Adult community leader

Refer to **Attachment D** for the specific information requested from each recommender. *No more than four recommendations will be accepted.*

The completed nominee application packet must be received **no later than 5:00 p.m., December 7, 2026**. Incomplete or late applications will not be considered.

All complete applications will be reviewed and scored by the SMOB Election Committee, which includes:

- MASC President
- MASC 2nd Vice President (middle school student)
- Current State SMOB
- One MASC Regional President
- One County/City SMOB, SROB, or Commissioner
- One High School President
- One Regional Advisor
- One Middle School Advisor

A select group of nominees will advance to the next stage of the process: **virtual interviews**. These nominees will be contacted by **December 22, 2026**, to schedule their interview for **Saturday, January 2, 2027**.

The interview committee will select up to **five finalists** to deliver speeches to the MASC General Assembly, held during the **Legislative Session on Saturday, January 30, 2027**, at **Guilford Park High School, Howard County**. (*Snow date 2/6/27*)

Finalists must register with their school delegation to attend the Legislative Session. **Online registration** can only be completed by a school advisor or administrator and must be submitted before the **January 13, 2027** deadline. The registration fee is \$30 per student or advisor. If the school cannot cover the full fee for a nominee, MASC will coordinate with the school principal and school system superintendent to ensure the nominee's participation.

At the Legislative Session, finalists will give speeches, participate in a Q&A session, and have multiple opportunities to campaign before MASC voting delegates elect the two final nominees. These names will then be forwarded to the Governor for appointment consideration.

We strongly encourage you to nominate a qualified student from your school for this important position by completing the **School Nomination Google Form**. Please share the attached information and nomination materials with your school's nominee:

- **Attachment A:** Position Description
- **Attachment B:** Student Letter
- **Attachment C:** Application Packet Instructions
- **Attachment D:** Required Recommendations

Nominees must be available to participate in the entire selection process. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at Karen.Crawford@mdstudentcouncils.org.

Sincerely,



Karen L. Crawford
Executive Director, Maryland Association of Student Councils

Attachments:

- A. Position Description
- B. Letter to Student Nominee
- C. Nominee Application Packet Instructions
- D. Recommendation Requirements

Dates to Remember:

- | | |
|---------------------|---|
| > October 6, 2026 | SMOB Informational Webinar (7:00-8:00 p.m.) (<i>Registration closes 5:00 p.m., October 4, 2026</i>) |
| > November 16, 2026 | School nomination Google form completed (5:00 p.m.) |
| > December 7, 2026 | Completed student application packet must be uploaded (5:00 p.m.) |
| > December 7, 2026 | Required recommendations completed (5:00 p.m.) |
| > December 22, 2026 | Nominees contacted about interviews |
| > January 2, 2027 | Virtual interview for selected nominees |
| > January 13, 2027 | Finalists - Registered by school advisor or administrator to attend Legislative Session |
| > January 30, 2027 | Up to five finalists present at the MASC Legislative Session, Guilford Park High School (<i>snow date 2/7/27</i>) |

MARYLAND STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Student Member Position Description

ROLE OF THE STUDENT MEMBER:

The Student Member of the Board (SMOB) provides an informed student perspective to the Maryland State Board of Education. While the student member does not represent all students or any specific group, they must respect diverse viewpoints and develop positions that reflect the best interests of Maryland students.

As an official Board member, the student member has a partial vote, participating in all decisions except those involving legal appeals or the removal and reprimand of personnel.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE STUDENT MEMBER:

1. Be an informed participant and voter in Board discussions and actions. This includes reviewing and analyzing the materials provided before each Board meeting. Board packets typically contain:

- Agenda
- Minutes of previous meetings
- Background information and recommendations for policy and program discussions
- Resolutions and legislation
- Budget and personnel documents

In addition, the student member must read supplemental materials, including articles, journals, and reports sent weekly to Board members.

2. Develop a thorough understanding of current statewide educational issues that directly impact Maryland students, and share this information with students and student leaders statewide. This can be accomplished by:

- Attending MASC Executive Board meetings, conferences, and other appropriate meetings throughout the year
- Meeting with county student Board members or representatives
- Being accessible to hear the concerns of Maryland's diverse student population

3. Attend and/or speak at various education- and youth-related conferences and events.

4. Participate in the selection process of the incoming student Board member.

5. Provide orientation for the next student Board member and prepare an end-of-year report summarizing key issues and Board actions during the term, to guide the incoming student Board member.

ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS:

1. Attend monthly one-day Board meetings at the Maryland State Department of Education in Baltimore City.

2. Represent the State Board at various educational events, including education forums held throughout Maryland, either in-person or virtually.

3. Participate in the Maryland State Board of Education's new member orientation.

4. Attend the annual State Board retreat.

5. Attend, whenever possible, MASC Executive Board meetings and conferences to report on important educational issues and gather student input on these topics.

CANDIDATE SELECTION:

1. School Nominations

Each public high school in Maryland may nominate one student for the position of Student Member of the State Board of Education (SMOB) by 5:00 p.m., November 16, 2026. Schools do not need to be MASC members. Nominees must then submit an application by 5:00 p.m., Monday, December 7, 2026, including:

- Résumé
- Three essay responses
- A one-minute recorded statement explaining why they want to serve as SMOB
- Four recommendations via a Google Form

We strongly encourage interested students to attend the virtual SMOB Informational Webinar on Tuesday, October 6, 2026. Students will find the registration link on this MASC website:

<https://mdstudentcouncils.org/index.php/student-member-on-the-board-of-education/>

2. Application Screening

Applications are reviewed and scored by a committee composed of:

- MASC President
- MASC 2nd Vice President (middle school student)
- Current State SMOB
- One MASC Regional President
- One County/City SMOB, SROB, or Commissioner
- One High School President
- One Regional Advisor
- One Middle School Advisor

Substitutions to the committee will be made if any committee member is from a school district with a nominee.

3. Candidate Interviews

The committee interviews top applicants with completed applications and selects up to five candidates to move forward to the next stage. On or before January 13, 2027, the nominees' school administration or student council advisor must register the nominee to attend the MASC Legislative Session at Guilford Park High School, Howard County.

4. MASC Legislative Session

At the Legislative Session, attended by approximately 500–700 high school and middle school students, the delegates elect two nominees whose names are submitted to the Governor.

5. Governor Appointment

The Governor appoints one of the two nominees to serve a one-year term as the Student Member on the State Board of Education.



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September 2026

Dear Student:

Thank you for your interest in serving as the Student Member of the Maryland State Board of Education (SMOB) for the 2027–2028 school year. You are receiving this letter because your school has chosen you as its nominee for this important position.

Shaping state education policies is both challenging and rewarding, and your willingness to serve the students and citizens of Maryland is truly commendable. The Maryland Association of Student Councils (MASC) oversees the selection process, which is detailed in the enclosed Position Description (Attachment A).

The responsibilities of this position, outlined in the enclosed Position Description, are extensive. Before deciding to pursue this opportunity, please carefully consider your ability to miss school, commit significant time outside of school, and arrange transportation to meetings.

We strongly encourage you to attend the virtual SMOB Informational Webinar on Tuesday evening, October 6, 2026. Registration closes at 5:00 p.m. on October 4, 2026. Registration is available on the MASC website: <https://mdstudentcouncils.org/index.php/student-member-on-the-board-of-education/>

To be considered for this position, your school must submit a School Nomination Google Form by 5:00 p.m., November 16, 2026. Interested students should work with their school administration to ensure the deadline is met. Only one nominee per public high school is allowed.

Once MASC receives the school's nomination form, the student nominee will be notified. The nominee must then submit a completed application by **5:00 p.m., December 7, 2026** (see Attachment C). Incomplete or late applications will not be considered.

All complete applications will be reviewed and scored, and up to 12 nominees will be selected for interviews. Those selected will be contacted by December 22, 2026, to schedule a virtual interview on Saturday, January 2, 2027.

Interviews will be conducted via Zoom by a committee consisting of students, one middle school advisor, and one regional student council advisor. Nominees will need to prepare a brief presentation for the interview. Detailed instructions and guidance will be provided to those moving forward to this stage.

The interview committee will select up to five finalists to deliver speeches at the MASC General Assembly during the Legislative Session on Saturday, January 30, 2027, at Guilford Park High School, Howard County.

If selected as a finalist, nominees must register with their school delegation to attend the Legislative Session. Online registration, completed by a school advisor or administrator, must be submitted by the January 13, 2027 deadline.

At the Legislative Session, finalists will give speeches, participate in a question-and-answer session, and have several opportunities to campaign before MASC voting delegates select the two final nominees. These names will then be forwarded to the Governor for appointment consideration.

Please review the attached materials and carefully complete your application packet. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact me at Karen.Crawford@mdstudentcouncils.org.

As part of your preparation for this selection process, you may find it helpful to attend an upcoming State Board of Education meeting. Please contact me for information about these meetings. Additionally, I encourage you to visit the Maryland State Department of Education website at www.marylandpublicschools.org for more resources.

Sincerely,

Karen L. Crawford

Karen L. Crawford
MASC Executive Director

STUDENT APPLICATION FOR THE POSITION OF STUDENT MEMBER OF THE MARYLAND STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

The School Nomination Google Form must be submitted by the principal or their designee by 5:00 p.m., November 16, 2026 for the nomination to be recognized by MASC. Students may NOT submit the nomination form.

Your completed application packet must be uploaded by 5:00 p.m., December 7, 2026.

Application Packet Components: Included here for your planning – all of the information below will be submitted via the Google Form.

1) School Nomination Google Form

- Deadline: 5:00 p.m., November 16, 2026
- Must be submitted by the school principal or principal designee.

2) Student Application Submission

When your résumé and essay responses are finalized, complete the Google Form (<https://forms.gle/du7CXw58RYNrCu6>) and upload the following:

- a) **Résumé** – Limit one page; margins no smaller than 0.4 inches. Upload to the Google Form.
- b) **Three Essay Responses** – Each essay 250 words or less; **combine into a single document** and upload to the Google Form:
 - i) Describe what you think is the most important issue or concern facing students today.
 - ii) How do you think the State Board of Education should address that or another significant issue?
 - iii) What do you think is the role of the student member on the Maryland State Board of Education, and how would you fulfill that role?
- c) **Visual Recording** – Respond to the question: “*Why do you want to be the student on the State Board of Education?*”
 - Record using Zoom or another app that allows recording, saving, and uploading.
 - File name must include your name.
 - Maximum length: **1 minute**.

3) Recommendations

You must submit **four recommendations** from the following individuals:

- Current principal
- High school teacher who has or recently had you in class
- Student council advisor or advisor of a student activity you are currently involved in
- Community leader

a) Each recommendation **must be submitted directly by the recommender** via this Google Form (<https://forms.gle/yVc8CPSUfjHZi32N8>) – see Attachment D for details.

b) **No additional recommendations** will be accepted.

c) You are responsible for contacting your recommenders and providing any necessary information (e.g., position description). Be sure to allow enough time to have a complete application packet by the deadline. **You should also follow up with your recommendation request at least a week before the deadline.**

Dates to Remember:

- | | |
|---------------------|---|
| > October 6, 2026 | SMOB Informational Webinar (7:00-8:00 p.m.) (<i>Registration closes 5:00 p.m., October 4, 2026</i>) |
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ELECTRONIC RECOMMENDATION - CURRENT PRINCIPAL

Deadline 5:00 p.m., December 7, 2026

*APPLICATION FOR THE POSITION OF
STUDENT MEMBER OF THE MARYLAND STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION*

The following information will be requested in the recommendation Google form:

<https://tinyurl.com/427mfp3n>

- Your email
- Your name
- Your school
- Your position
- Nominee's name
- How long and in what context have you known the nominee?
- Reasons for your support for the nominee's application for student member of the Maryland State Board of Education.
- Any additional comments

This recommendation must be completed by the recommender and submitted by

5:00 p.m., December 7, 2026

<https://tinyurl.com/427mfp3n>

Refer questions to Karen.Crawford@mdstudentcouncils.org

ELECTRONIC RECOMMENDATION - HIGH SCHOOL TEACHER

Deadline 5:00 p.m., December 7, 2026

Note: This recommendation must be completed by a teacher who has/had the nominee in class.

*APPLICATION FOR THE POSITION OF
STUDENT MEMBER OF THE MARYLAND STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION*

The following information will be requested in the recommendation Google form:

<https://tinyurl.com/427mfp3n>

- Your email
- Your name
- Your school
- Your position
- Nominee's name
- How long and in what context have you known the nominee?
- Reasons for your support for the nominee's application for student member of the Maryland State Board of Education.
- Any additional comments

This recommendation must be completed by the recommender and submitted by

5:00 p.m., December 7, 2026

<https://tinyurl.com/427mfp3n>

Refer questions to Karen.Crawford@mdstudentcouncils.org

ELECTRONIC RECOMMENDATION - STUDENT COUNCIL or ACTIVITY ADVISOR

Deadline 5:00 p.m., December 7, 2026

Note: a student council advisor or student activity advisor from an organization in which the nominee is currently involved must complete this recommendation.

APPLICATION FOR THE POSITION OF STUDENT MEMBER OF THE MARYLAND STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

The following information will be requested in the recommendation Google form:

<https://tinyurl.com/427mfp3n>

- Your email
- Your name
- Your school
- Your position
- Nominee's name
- What is the type of activity for which you are an advisor?
- How long and in what context have you known the nominee?
- Reasons for your support for the nominee's application for student member of the Maryland State Board of Education.
- Any additional comments

This recommendation must be completed by the recommender and submitted by

5:00 p.m., December 7, 2026

<https://tinyurl.com/427mfp3n>

Refer questions to Karen.Crawford@mdstudentcouncils.org

ELECTRONIC RECOMMENDATION - ADULT COMMUNITY LEADER

Deadline 5:00 p.m., December 7, 2026

APPLICATION FOR THE POSITION OF STUDENT MEMBER OF THE MARYLAND STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

The following information will be requested in the recommendation Google form:

<https://tinyurl.com/427mfp3n>

- Your email
- Your name
- Your organization
- Your position
- Nominee's name
- What is the web address of your organization? (street address if no website)
- How long and in what context have you known the nominee?
- Reasons for your support for the nominee's application for student member of the Maryland State Board of Education.
- Any additional comments

This recommendation must be completed by the recommender and submitted by

5:00 p.m., December 7, 2026

<https://tinyurl.com/427mfp3n>

Refer questions to Karen.Crawford@mdstudentcouncils.org