



2026-2027 STUDENT MEMBER APPLICATION

CALIFORNIA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Every summer, the Governor appoints one incoming high school senior to serve on the State Board of Education (SBE) for a one-year term. The student member functions as a regular voting member of the SBE. This information below explains the application and selection processes, and contains a copy of the application. Please feel free to copy and distribute it to any student who might be interested.

About the 2026-2027 Student Member

Eligibility

Any student who is a California resident, enrolled in a California public high school, and who will be enrolled in good standing in the twelfth grade in the 2026-2027 school year may apply.

Term of Office

The Student Member will serve a one-year term from August 1, 2026 through July 31, 2027.

Time Requirements

The estimated time commitment required for the Student Member will be at least two consecutive school days every other month to attend regular State Board meetings, in Sacramento; a one-day orientation; sufficient time to study the agenda materials in advance of the meeting, which may include consultation with board staff for background information related to agenda issues; additional time for handling other Board-related business; and time to attend selected advisory group meetings, student meetings, workshops, and conferences.

Expenses Paid

Travel, lodging, and meal costs will be paid by the SBE in the amount allowed by state regulations. Additionally, the State Board's Student Member receives a \$100 stipend for each day's service on approved, official business.

Selection and Appointment Process

Application Receipt

SBE staff will confirm the receipt of all applications within 24 hours. A confirmation email will be sent to the email address specified in the application. (Applicant should assume the application was not received by the SBE unless a confirmation email was received. Please contact the SBE Office at (916) 319-0827 if there are questions.)

Initial Screening

An SBE Screening Committee will consider all applications received and select 12 semifinalists from among the applicants. The committee will review each application holistically, selecting 12 semifinalists who reflect the best cross-section of the many outstanding students who apply. The decision of the Screening Committee is final. Applicants will neither receive evaluations, nor will their application materials be returned.

Presentation and Selection of Candidates

California *Education Code* Section 33000.5(e)(4) requires that student members of a school district governing board select six of the 12 semifinalists for further consideration by the SBE. The SBE has utilized the annual Student Advisory Board on Education (SABE) conference to perform this function. SABE is sponsored by the California Association of Student Councils (CASC) and provides a three-day forum for students to meet in small groups to develop proposals that address education issues of concern to California public school students. These proposals are presented to the SBE at its November board meeting.

The 12 semifinalists will attend the 2025 SABE Conference, to be held November 3–5, 2025, in Sacramento. The semifinalists will participate in SABE activities as regular attendees. In addition, the semifinalists will make individual presentations to all other SABE participants about their interest in, and qualifications for the student member position. Following a secret ballot by the SABE participants, six candidates will be selected from the 12 semifinalists for further consideration by the SBE's Screening Committee. The decision of the SABE participants (determined by secret ballot) is final.

Interview

Each of the final six candidates will be interviewed by the SBE Screening Committee. The Screening Committee will recommend three finalists to the SBE. Following the Board's vote to select three nominees, the names of the three finalists will be forwarded to the Governor. The State Board's recommendations to the Governor are final. Interviews and the selection of the three finalists are expected to take place prior to and at the State Board's November 5-6, 2025 meeting.

Appointment

Representatives of the Governor will interview the three finalists in the late spring or summer of 2026. Following the interviews, one of the finalists will be appointed by the Governor to be the 2026-2027 Student Member. Final Candidates will also be required to complete an additional application, as required by the Governor's Office.

SABE Conference registration fees will be paid by the SBE.

Statement of Understanding

I have read the information about the 2026-2027 Student Member and the description of the selection process for the 2026-2027 Student Member, both of which appear above. I understand and agree to participate in the selection process. If successful in the selection process and later appointed by the Governor to the position of Student Member, I will pledge an oath of allegiance to the state, and will perform the responsibilities of the Student Member to the best of my ability.

Applicant

Last Name:

First Name:

Signature:

Date:

Parent or Guardian Signature:

Date:



2026-2027 STUDENT MEMBER APPLICATION FORM

CALIFORNIA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Applicant Information

Last Name:

First Name:

Email Address:

Phone:

Mailing Address:

County:

Parent or Guardian's Name:

Parent or Guardian's Phone:

High School Information

High School Name:

Principal's Name:

Principal's Phone:

School District Information

School District Name:

Superintendent's Name:

Superintendent's Phone:

Application Requirements

Please be concise as you complete this application. Observe the limits of your responses as indicated.

Written Responses

This application form may be downloaded and should be completed by computer. The completed application must be included with the supporting documents.

Letters of Recommendation

Please provide three letters of recommendation from the following and enter the names of the individuals who are writing the letters below.

One of your high school teachers:

An administrator (e.g., principal or vice principal) or counselor at your high school:

Another adult who knows you personally (other than a member of your family):

Transcript

Please include a copy of the most recent high school transcript of your grades.

Optional Items

You may include supporting documents about yourself since you were in seventh grade (e.g., news articles, etc.). Items from earlier years will not be reviewed.

Reasonable Accommodation for Any Individual with a Disability

Pursuant to the *Rehabilitation Act of 1973* and the *Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990*, any individual with a disability who requires reasonable accommodation to attend or participate in a meeting or function of the California State Board of Education, may request assistance by contacting the State Board Office at the following:

**California State Board of Education
2026-2027 Student Member Application**

1430 N Street, Room 5111

Sacramento, CA 95814

Telephone: 916-319-0827

Email: sbe@sbe.ca.gov

Submission Instructions

Complete applications must be received by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, September 19, 2025.

Please submit your application via email. A single PDF of the application, three letters of recommendation, transcript, and supplemental items is preferred. You may also contact the State Board Office if you have any questions:

Telephone: 916-319-0827

You may submit your application by email at sbe@sbe.ca.gov,
or online at:

<https://www.cde.ca.gov/be/ms/mm/SBESStudentMemberApplications.asp>

Optional Information

The following information is optional but would be appreciated (*Government Code* Sections 11140-11141). Use the categories below to choose the one with which you most closely identify.

Please identify your gender:

Please state your ethnicity:

About the State Board of Education

The State Board of Education was established first by statute in 1852, then by amendment to the California Constitution in 1884. Both the Constitution and statutes set forth the State Board's duties. The State Superintendent of Public Instruction is the secretary and executive officer of the State Board. The State Board is composed of 11 members appointed by the Governor. Ten members serve four-year, staggered terms. The eleventh member is the Student Member who serves a one-year term.

The State Board's constitutional duties include: (1) appointment of one deputy and three associate superintendents of the California Department of Education (CDE), based upon the State Superintendent's nominations, and (2) adoption of textbooks for use in grades one through eight.

The State Board's statutory duties include (partial listing): (1) acting as the governing and policy determining body of the CDE; (2) adopting regulations that govern the public schools that are consistent with the laws of the state; (3) adopting statewide curriculum frameworks in the core subjects of reading/language arts, mathematics, history-social science, and science, as well as the subjects of foreign language, health, physical education, and visual and performing arts covering kindergarten through grade twelve; (4) adopting instructional materials in the core subjects (and in foreign language, health, and visual and performing arts) for kindergarten and grades one through eight; (5) approving statewide academic content and student performance standards; (6) adopting assessments for the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress, the English Language Proficiency Assessments for California, the physical performance test, and others; (7) approving waivers requested by school districts of particular sections of the Education Code; (8) approving school district reorganizations; (9) adopting the state framework for local implementation of the Local Control Funding Formula, Local Control and Accountability Plans, and the California School Dashboard; (10) approving the distribution of certain state and federal funds; (11) establishing policy and approving plans for complying with the federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, and other federal laws, as required; and (12) considering, hearing, or summarily denying appeals to establish or renew charter schools.

Application Questionnaire

Question 1

Keeping in mind the areas of authority of the State Board, as described above, identify and discuss what you consider to be **one** of the most difficult problems affecting kindergarten through twelfth grade public education. Indicate the steps you feel should be taken to solve or alleviate the problem. *Please limit your response to 300 words.*

Question 2

Why do you want to serve on the State Board of Education?

Please limit your response to 150 words.

Please list the highlights of your experiences, activities, achievements, and honors in each of the following areas. The list should be in reverse chronological order with the most recent entry first. Remember to list only accomplishments acquired since the beginning of grade seven. You may include documentation of these achievements.

Academic Achievements and Honors

Achievement/Honor	Year(s)

Work Experience

Please list your paid work experience, if applicable.

Employer	Description	Year(s)

Extracurricular Activities

Please list extracurricular, co-curricular and personal activities, including but not limited to student government, community service, theater, journalism, athletics, music, arts, organized school and community activities, and/or participating as a foreign exchange student.

Activity or Interest	Positions held, if applicable	Year(s)

Question 3

In what ways have your previous experiences prepared you for this position? Include your experiences with both peers and adults. *Please limit your response to 250 words.*

Select two of the individual items that you listed in the academic achievements or honors, work experience, or extracurricular activities sections above and explain why you value these accomplishments most and how they have prepared you for a leadership role on the State Board of Education. *Please limit your response to 200 words.*

Question 4

Add anything else you would like those involved in the selection process to know about you. *Please limit your response to 150 words.*

Question 5

California has recently adopted significant education policy and funding changes that require districts to adopt Local Control and Accountability Plans (LCAP), which emphasize local decision-making, community engagement, and transparency. Describe your perceptions of your school's or district's LCAP process. *Please limit your response to 250 words.*