



## Superintendent's Circular

School Year 2020-2021

NUMBER:  
FAM-06

DATE:  
September 29, 2020

### **BOSTON STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Massachusetts State Law Chapter 71: Section 38M. Student Advisory Committee states: School committees of cities, towns and regional school districts shall meet at least once every other month, during the months school is in session, with a student advisory committee to consist of five members to be composed of students elected by the student body of the high school or high schools in each city, town or regional school district.

### **MISSION STATEMENT**

*The Boston Student Advisory Council advocates for and protects the voices of students in the Boston Public School system, empowers the student body to express their opinions regarding educational policy changes, and ensures that students are included in decision and policy making which impacts their lives and educational experiences.*

In the Boston Public Schools students are elected/appointed by each school to serve on the Boston Student Advisory Council. The Boston Student Advisory Council (BSAC), a citywide body of student leaders representing their respective high schools, serves as the voice of students to the Boston School Committee. They offer their perspectives on reform efforts and inform their respective schools about relevant citywide school issues. They also address student issues by developing district-wide policies.

BSAC is the primary vehicle for student voice and youth engagement across the Boston Public Schools. In recent years, BSAC has played a key role in advising the School Committee on policy, working with the Headmasters on student climate issues and informing students of their rights and responsibilities under district rules.

BSAC is made up of a Steering Committee and Working Group. The Steering Committee discusses and prioritizes focus areas and ideas for projects, while the Working Group of 10 to 12 students serve as the driving force behind the campaigns.

**Each BPS High School (including district, exam, all high school-level alternative, pilot, and in-district charter schools) is required to have at least one and, if desired, two BSAC representatives from their school.** The BSAC representatives must work with and be connected to the School Site Council Student representatives and Student Government. The BSAC Representative is a part of the student government and should attend student government meetings in order to share BSAC's work, receive feedback, and gather input on projects/policies.

As a student member of the program, students have access to a host of perks and benefits that many other students usually wouldn't have otherwise. **Benefits include, but are not limited to:**

- Paid opportunities for participation in the BSAC program.
- Option to receive a .5 academic credit for participating in BSAC Program
- Academic support and progress monitoring by BSAC Staff
- Community service hours
- Social and Emotional Wellness support and Development if needed
- College readiness support throughout all four years of high school
- Exposure to leadership opportunities and speaking engagements

### **Responsibility of BSAC Members**

1. To **represent his/her school** at BSAC meetings and report back to his/her respective school's student leadership body (Student Government, Student Council, etc.).
2. To **keep his/her school informed** about relevant citywide issues
3. To **advise the school committee** as part of its decision making process
4. To **work on policies and projects** that BSAC prioritizes for the year

### **BSAC Representatives will:**

- Represent their schools at BSAC meetings - Mondays and Thursdays 4:00-6:00 p.m. at BPS Bolling Building, 2300 Washington Street, Roxbury, MA and/or in virtual setting. A meeting calendar will be shared with all headmasters.
- Assist in decision making for their schools by advising the administration on student-centered citywide issues and policies
- Work on policies that BSAC develops
- Perform tasks necessary to advance project work, such as surveys, meetings with the headmaster and student government advisor, peer interviews, etc.

*The Office of Engagement is responsible for oversight and support of BSAC. Youth on Board serves as a partner providing support and opportunities for BSAC members.*

Summary of significant dates and deadlines:

| <b>Date</b>                   | <b>Activity</b>   |
|-------------------------------|---|
| October 19 - October 21, 2020 | Week of Orientation and Training for all BSAC Members<br>4:00-6:00pm at BPS Bolling or in Virtual Setting       |
| October 19                    | Deadline to email names of student representative(s) to the Office of Student, Family and Community Advancement |

For more information about this circular, contact:

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| <b>Name:</b>            | Monica Roberts, Chief Engagement Officer   |
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Dr. Brenda Cassellius, Superintendent