



Book	Ogdensburg City School District
Section	2000
Title	EX OFFICIO STUDENT MEMBER OF THE BOARD
Code	2245
Status	First Reading
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( ) Required  
**(X) Local**  
 (X) Notice

**NOTE:** This policy sets out the Board's commitment to include students in the educational process in the school district.

*If, prior to August 5, 2003, your school district had a policy that allowed for a student ex officio board member, that policy may remain in effect for the selection process. However, if not, this sample policy is offered to outline the school district's option for the selection of ex officio student members, the qualification for service, and the responsibilities of the student serving as an ex officio board member, once it has been approved by the voters.*

*If a school district contains more than one high school, the selection process must take into consideration the number of high schools within the district and provide for a mechanism that allows for fair representation among the schools.*

The Board of Education believes that it is important to include students' voices in its deliberations, the Board, therefore, supports the appointment of an ex officio student member to the Board for the purpose of providing regular and direct communication between the Board and the student body.

Good faith actions, mutual respect, and cooperative effort of all parties are essential to a positive and meaningful partnership and bringing about meaningful changes. to the Board believes that an ex officio student member will:

1. provide students with an opportunity to express their voices, take ownership of their education, and impact Board decisions;
2. provide for the Board and students a vehicle through which they may exchange information and learn from one another;
3. provide an opportunity for a student to gain experience with governance and leadership;
4. broaden the base of information available to those ultimately responsible for educational decision making; and
5. develop an environment that encourages inclusion, understanding, trust, and respect.

**NOTE:** The law specifies that the ex officio student member is not entitled to vote, attend executive sessions, or receive compensation. The rest of the below paragraph consists of the logical extension of those prohibitions to clarify the role and limitations of the position.

The ex officio student member will NOT: be allowed to vote; be allowed to attend executive sessions; or be entitled to receive compensation of any form for participating at Board meeting. Neither will they have the authority to call a special and/or emergency meeting of the Board; be considered a "member" of the Board for

the purpose of establishing a quorum for conducting business; or be allowed to see or discuss documents or information regarding individual district personnel, collective bargaining negotiations, individual student records, or any other confidential matters.

*NOTE: The law does not specify when an ex officio student member term begins and ends. The Board could set the term to be the same as the rest of the Board; i.e., July 1 to June 30, and have the selection take place at the end of the preceding school year. Under that scenario, the selected student technically would not become a senior until the following September, so would not be able to serve the position until the school year began, and the prior year's ex officio student member's term would end at the end of the school year, leaving the summer months without student representation. However, if the district sets the term to be September 1 to August 30, the seat would be empty during the summer, presuming the student graduates and is no longer a senior.*

The ex officio student member will serve for a term of two (2) year, commencing on July 1 and ending on June 30 of the second year. Attendance at Board meetings will not be expected for the ex officio student member during July and August.

#### *Qualifications and Selection of the Ex Officio Student Member of the Board*

*NOTE: The law requires that the ex officio student member be a senior at the high school who has attended that school for at least two years prior to selection. There are no requirements for when the selection process must take place. We suggest the end of the prior school year.*

The ex officio student member must be a junior/senior at the high school and will have attended such high school for at least two years prior to selection. The selection process will take place at the end of the school year preceding the next term. All qualified students interested in being the ex officio student member should contact the Building Principal.

*NOTE: The issue of vacancy is not addressed in the law, so we suggest the following paragraph to address that possibility. The Board could also discuss with its attorney selecting a second student to be an alternate ex officio student member, in the event the ex officio student member is unable to attend a meeting or must otherwise vacate the position.*

If the selected ex officio student member resigns the position, is removed, or is no longer able to serve, a new ex officio student member will be selected in accordance with this policy; or by the Building Principal, unless the Board determines there is not enough time to make the selection before the school year ends.

*NOTE: The district must establish a process for selecting a student member in accordance with Education Law. If, prior to August 5, 2003, the Board had a policy that allowed for a student ex officio board member, that policy may remain in effect for the selection process. However, if the Board does not have such a policy, it must establish a process for selecting a student member in accordance with Education Law. The law provides for several options. We have included these options below for the Board's consideration. Please review and select the option that applies to district: whether or not the district maintains a district-wide committee or advisory committee. Check with your attorney if necessary to assist in determining which option applies to your district.*

#### *Additional Provisions*

*NOTE: The following three paragraphs are optional and provided for the Board's consideration. While the law does not provide for removal of the ex officio student member, boards have the power under Education Law section 1709(18) and 2502(8) to remove one of their members or declare the office vacant. We believe it is reasonable to hold the ex officio student member to the same standards. However, as this has not been settled, you may wish to discuss this with your attorney.*

The ex officio student member represents the student body, and acts as an example for the students of the district. Such students are expected to abide by all applicable Board policies including the student Code of Conduct. Violations may result in removal from the position as determined by the Board. The Board may also declare the seat vacant if the ex officio student member fails to attend three consecutive Board meetings without sufficient excuse.

The Superintendent or designee is responsible for arranging for an orientation program for the ex officio student member. The Superintendent will establish procedures for the ex officio student member with the Board of Education if necessary to implement this policy.

At two-year intervals from the date last offered to the voters, if the Board determines that it wishes to discontinue the ex officio student board member position, it may submit that as a proposition to the voters on the same date as the annual district election and budget vote.

Ref:

Education Law §§1702(3), (3-a); 1709; 1804(12), (12-a); 1901(2), (3); 2109; 2502(8), (10), (10-a)

Adoption date: