



National Association of
State Boards of Education

THE STUDENT ENGAGEMENT COLLABORATIVE

Overview: The National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) is convening a student board collaborative to build peer-to-peer connections and leadership skills among student members on state boards of education. **Non-student board members are needed to serve as mentors to student members participating in the Collaborative.** Currently, 24 state boards of education have voting or nonvoting student board members who work hard to elevate the voices of the state's K-12 student population. State boards play a vital role in ensuring the education system meets the needs of students of all backgrounds and circumstances. As the nation recovers from the pandemic, active student board members can provide state leaders with valuable insights for meeting students' needs and ensuring the recovery effort is student-centered.

Project goals:

- Provide student board members with virtual training, technical assistance, and collaboration opportunities to address a school health issue in their state.
- Build the capacity of state leaders to engage students in decision-making.
- Elevate examples of state leaders engaging students in the decision-making process through publications and presentations.

Benefits of participation as a mentor:

- Advise student board members on how to effectively engage in the policymaking process and improve the educational experience for students across the state.
- Develop relationships with the student board members and create youth-adult partnerships.
- Ongoing technical assistance through two regional monthly check-ins and rapid response assistance.
- Building each state board's capacity to meaningfully engage students in decision-making.

What is expected of mentors: Mentors will work with their mentee in September and November to provide support and advice in developing an action plan. In the third week of September and November, mentors and mentees will join a regional technical assistance virtual meeting to share progress on student action plans and request support from NASBE as needed. The Collaborative is intended to be a safe space where students can learn through experience and build relationships with their peers and board colleagues. NASBE will guide mentors on providing feedback, facilitating student learning, and other topics to encourage a student-centered learning experience in the onboarding package and during technical assistance meetings.

What is expected of student members: Student board members are expected to attend three 90-minute virtual meetings on the second Thursdays of August, October, and December. During these sessions, students will learn about state policymaking and develop an action plan for addressing a school health-related issue. These sessions will be open only to the student members to provide them with time to connect with peers in other states.

How to join: NASBE members interested in serving as mentors for student board members must complete [this form](#) by **July 29, 2022**. A welcome package with additional details will be distributed on August 5, 2022.

Organizational background: A nonpartisan, nonprofit organization, NASBE elevates state board members' voices in national and state policymaking, facilitates the exchange of informed ideas, and supports members in advancing equity and excellence in public education for students of all races, genders, and circumstances. The Student Engagement Collaborative advances NASBE's mission by serving and strengthening state leaders' ability to meaningfully engage students in the policymaking process. This project is managed by Celina Pierrottet, NASBE's research and policy associate. She can be reached at celina.pierrottet@nasbe.org.

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