BOARD OF EDUCATION
BURNABY
SCHOOL DISTRICT 41

POLICY #27

STUDENT VOICE

PREAMBLE

The Board of Education values authentic student perspectives as an important source of input to inform its consideration of issues, policy development, and decision-making. The Board is committed to student engagement that reflects the diversity of the District's student body, including perspectives that are often underrepresented. The Board recognizes that decision-making authority rests with the Board of Education. For the purposes of this policy, student voice is not limited to spoken communication and includes the diverse ways students communicate and express their perspectives,recognizes all forms of student communication including American Sign Language (ASL), written communication, visual representation, assistive or augmentative communication, and other forms of student expression.

POLICY

THE BOARD OF EDUCATION SUPPORTS STUDENT ENGAGEMENT AS AN ESSENTIAL ELEMENT IN CREATING AND ENHANCING LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS FOR ALL STUDENTS. THE BOARD COMMITS TO ENSURING STUDENTS HAVE MEANINGFUL OPPORTUNITIES TO PROVIDE INPUT, WHERE STUDENT PERSPECTIVES CAN REASONABLY INFORM POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND BOARD DECISIONS. WHEN STUDENT REPRESENTATION IS ESTABLISHED TO INFORM BOARD WORK, IT WILL REFLECT STUDENTS FROM ACROSS THE DISTRICT'S SCHOOLS AND PROGRAMS.

OBJECTIVES

The Board supports student engagement in order to:

1. Advance belonging and inclusion by affirming students as valued partners in public education;

2. Promote equity of representation so student perspectives reflect the diversity of the District;

3. Strengthen Board understanding of diverse student experiences to inform policy direction and decisions;

4. Support leadership through opportunities for student participation; and,

5. Promote transparency and trust by clarifying the purpose and scope of engagement.

Date Adopted: 2026-09 Cross References:
Date(s) Revised: