

Sample Constitution



Article I - Name

The name of this (School Name) group shall be the (School Name) Student Council.

Article II - Purpose

The purpose of the (School Name) Student Council is to...*(determine what the purpose of your group is based on the areas of authority the school is willing to grant the group (in part or in full), such as council projects, staff/student appreciation, publicity, council meetings, elections, annual reports, student attitude/involvement, committee recommendations, council fund raising, spirit week, social events, school morale/pride, leadership education and development, etc...)*

Article III - Authority

Since the principal is directly responsible for the welfare of the school, it is expressly understood that powers herein delegated to the Student Government of the Student Body electorate are in whole subject to the advise and consent of the principal or his/her designee.

Article IV - Membership

All registered students of (School Name) are eligible to become members of the student council. *(In your bylaws, you can detail exactly who the voting members are - whether it's based on numbers, elections, selections, etc...and also detail in the bylaws the executive board as voting members. Use your bylaws to include information about members-at-large, non-voting members, etc...Remember that the President of the Council is usually a non-voting member except in the case of a tie)*

Article V - Organization of Student Council

This section should be used to detail what bodies make up the Student Council (members, Executive Board, Leadership Class, Class Officers, etc...) and should outline the order of authority as well, if part of your group make up. Include details as to who makes up those separate groups.

Article VI - Election/Selection Procedures

(In this article, there should be detailed Sections on how the Executive Officers are elected/selected, how members are elected/selected, and when. Include information on requirements of officers/members, how elections are done, what happens in the event of a tie, ineligibility clauses, how write-ins are done, how members-at-large get in, and any honorary or standing members, such as class officers, etc...)

Article VII - Duties and Responsibilities

(These are sample duties and responsibilities and will vary from school to school)

To give advice and consent to legislation for the regulation of the students within the Student Body.

To represent the diverse cultures and opinions of their fellow students.

To be responsible for oneself and one's behavior as one's actions ultimately reflect upon the Student Council and _____ High School.

To consider all financial matters relating to the Student Body funds.

To approve the yearly budget for the Student Council at the beginning of each school year.

To approve the spending money by organizations at _____ School unless said organization has a President (Chairman) and/or Secretary/Treasurer.

To assign jurisdiction among the bodies of the Student Government, in case of dispute over any responsibilities not expressly delegated to one certain body.

To fill all vacancies of Student Body offices by the means stated in the election rules.

To interpret the meaning of the Constitution in case of dispute.

To maintain communication between students and administration on matters concerning the general Student Body (i.e., curriculum, athletics, attendance, etc.).

All members shall have one vote on Student Council issues. The President shall not vote, except in the case of a tie.

Members are responsible for upholding and supporting the decisions of Student Council, including the rules and procedures outlined in the Bylaws.

Members are responsible for communicating accurately the business and decisions of Student Council to the Clarkston High School student body, staff, and administration as well as the Clarkston community.

Members are responsible for carrying out duties handed down to them to the best of their ability, punctually, and completely.

Members are responsible for voting intelligently or abstaining (members cannot abstain from voting on money issues).

Article VIII - Attendance, Initiative, Removal, etc...

This section should detail your group's attendance policy as well as what happens when attendance requirements are not met. Also include the process for removing a member and officer, initiatives, dismissals, voting recalls, etc...Below is just a sample of what this section could include.

Section 1: Initiative

On a written petition of 10 voting members of the Student Council or 50 members of the Student Body, the Student Council shall take immediate action on any matter of school interest referred by such a petition.

Section 2: Recall (Student Body, Class, Senate)

- A. Any officer, upon a petition of 25% of their constituents, shall be subject to recall vote, which will be open to the constituents.
- B. Before the recall vote, the officer in question shall be given the opportunity to speak before an assembly of the constituents.
- C. A majority of those votes cast are required to remove an officer.

Section 3: Removal From Office

- A. Student Body officers, upon petition of 1/3 of the Student Council, shall be subject to a vote to remove them from office.
- B. Before the final vote, the officer shall be given the opportunity to speak before the Student Council.
- C. A $\frac{3}{4}$ vote of the Student Council is required to remove the officer from office.
- D. Not more than 5 days after an officer has been removed, a committee appointed by the Student Council must select, by interview, a person to fill the vacant office. If the Student Body President is impeached, the Vice-President becomes President, and a committee fills the Vice-President's office.
- E. An impeached officer may not run for any other office which is part of the Student Council.

Article IX - By-Laws

The Student Council is empowered to write all appropriate procedures and regulations necessary to carry out the letter and spirit of the Constitution.

Article X - Amending the Constitution

- A. An amendment to the Constitution may be proposed and discussed at a regular meeting of the Student Council. A $\frac{3}{4}$ majority is required to accept the amendment.
- B. The proposed amendment will be presented to the faculty and administration for discussion.
- C. The proposed amendment shall be adequately publicized two (2) weeks before the election is held.
- D. A majority of the votes cast by the Student Body shall be required to carry the amendment. Upon passage, it will be added to the existing Constitution.

Article XI - Ratification of the Constitution

The ratification by a majority of the Student Body in a general vote shall be sufficient for the establishment of this Constitution as the governing instrument for _____ School Student Body Association.