

Baltimore County Public Schools
Student Member of the Board (SMOB)
Frequently Asked Questions

QUESTION: What do you do as the SMOB?

ANSWER: As the Student Member of the Board of Education, you represent every student from every part of Baltimore County. You attend board meetings that are held every other Tuesday, and you also sit on two committees: Policy Review Committee and Curriculum Committee. Along with your responsibilities as SMOB, you are an Executive Board member of the Baltimore County Student Councils, a member of the Board of Selected Students, and an Executive Board Member on the Maryland Association of Student Councils.

QUESTION: What traits are important to be the SMOB?

ANSWER: There is no formula to be a great SMOB, every SMOB brings unique traits to the job. However, applicants should be the following:

- Responsible. You are accountable for reading oral arguments and agendas for upcoming meetings before you enter the boardroom.
- Confident. As SMOB, you speak to people from all over the county, public speaking is a huge part of the job.
- Able to manage time. Applicants need to find a balance between SMOB life and student life. It will be very challenging to take eight classes and also be prepared for meetings.

QUESTION: How do I apply for SMOB?

ANSWER: The application process begins in December. To complete the online application, you will need:

- A letter of recommendation from each of the following (5 total):
 1. Your current principal
 2. School Counselor
 3. English teacher or Social Studies teacher
 4. Advisor of a school club you participate in
 5. Adult advisor of an outside community program in which you participate
- A one-page essay (no more than 3,000 characters) about why you want to be SMOB.
- A resume (one page, no smaller than 10pt font).

Please also note that official school transcripts will be reviewed along with the applicant's most recent report card. No need to submit a copy but the applicant is encouraged to keep one for their records.

QUESTION: What happens after I apply?

ANSWER: After you apply, you will receive an email notifying you whether or not you will move on to the interview phase. Selected students will be invited to interview with a panel of various members of Team BCPS.

After the interview, two students will be selected for the next steps:

- Videotaping of speeches to be shown to students.
- Video tape responses to selected student questions – also shown to students.
- Students vote online.

The candidate with the most student votes will be selected as the next student member of the board.