

DENVER EAST HIGH SCHOOL

**STUDENT COUNCIL
CONSTITUTION AND
BYLAWS**

CONSTITUTION

Name

These articles shall govern the organization known as Denver East High School Student Council, hereby known as student council.

Purpose

The purpose of this student council shall be to serve and represent the student body.

Membership

The head boy and head girl shall serve as co-presidents of student council.

The student activities director shall serve as advisor to student council.

The class officers shall consist of a president, vice president and secretary/treasurer. There shall also be two male representatives and two female representatives.

In the absence of the head boy and head girl, the most senior class president shall act as president pro tempore of council.

The executive committee shall consist of each of the class presidents, the head boy and head girl, and the student activities director.

The opportunity for student council membership shall be open to any student who meets all the requirements set forth in the bylaws. Student Council shall not be empowered to deny membership opportunity on the basis of sex, race, creed, sexual orientation, or grade level, if the stated requirements have been completely fulfilled.

Council Duties

The membership of student council shall be empowered to fulfill its purpose through:

1. Regular communication with administration, staff, community leaders and student organizations; and,
2. Fundraising for the student body and for the community; and,
3. Organizing and facilitating activities to improve school spirit, pride and tone; and,
4. Encouraging student involvement; and,
5. Representing the student body both within and outside of the school.

Member Rights

Each member of student council shall be granted, by the powers vested in student council, the right to:

1. Request a meeting with the head boy, head girl and student activities director to raise a point of concern; and,
2. Contribute to discussions in an equitable way; and,
3. Bring up new business for deliberation and decision by council; and,
4. Leave council at any time, for any reason, and receive no record of the class on the transcript for that semester.

Personal Conduct

Serving the student body is a privilege. Members of student council are role models, exhibiting the highest standards of conduct and character.

All personal conduct violations must follow the Constitution and Bylaws applicable at the time of the violation. No ex post facto legislation may be passed by student council.

If for whatever reason a position becomes available on council, the position shall be filled at the discretion of the activities director, with a recommendation by the executive committee.

Meetings

Student council shall function in a class called 'Student Leadership', and meet as such. Meetings shall occur during class time, in a room adequate for the multifaceted duties of student council. Meetings outside of class time will be at the discretion of the head boy, head girl and student activities director.

The head boy and head girl shall set the agenda and control the meeting. They shall also determine the internal organization of student council.

Any meeting of the entire council shall be organized according to the rules of order as designated by the head boy and head girl. However, the system shall strive to balance the rights of the minority with the will of the majority, and not sacrifice dissent in the name of efficiency.

Any member who feels disenfranchised in a meeting can file a grievance in a closed conference with the head boy and head girl and student activities director. The decision of that conference shall be final.

No group of members shall make any decision on behalf of the entire council without a quorum of students present. This quorum shall be a majority of membership, including three student members of the executive committee. Failure to have an adequate quorum shall prohibit the council's ability to conduct binding business.

Jurisdiction

The class council shall have jurisdiction over its class. The head boy and head girl shall have jurisdiction over the student body as a whole, and may not necessarily supersede the class council's jurisdiction.

Ratification of the Constitution

A two-thirds vote of the entire student council shall be necessary to ratify this constitution. This constitution shall be enacted immediately, and it shall replace and supersede all former governing documents in their entirety.

Amendment to the Constitution

An amendment may be proposed by a simple majority of the total membership of council, or one-tenth of the student body, in a petition form. The amendment may be approved by a two-thirds vote of the entire student council.

BYLAWS

Membership

Membership on student council shall be available only in four ways: elected (non head boy or head girl), elected head boy or head girl, freshmen members, or to those who are appointed. There shall be no exceptions to any election regulations contained herein.

I. Elected membership (non head boy or head girl)

1. Any student wishing to be an elected member of student council must participate in the general election.
2. This election shall take place between Spring Break and the start of AP exams.
3. To appear on the ballot, a candidate must have turned in a legitimate signature sheet, answers to short questions, parent permission form and a dean's office recommendation.
 - a. If the candidate turns in their paperwork on or before the due date, and is missing something minor, the student activity director will notify the student, and he or she will have a twenty-four hour grace period to turn in the remainder of the required paperwork.
4. The GPA requirement for all members shall be 2.75 (unweighted).
5. Every non-freshmen class (incoming sophomores, juniors, and seniors) have the following positions available:
 - a. President (1)
 - b. Vice-President (1)
 - c. Secretary/Treasurer (1)
 - d. Male Representative (2)
 - e. Female Representative (2)
6. Elections shall be based on three factors, each weighing proportionately into the applicant's final score:
 - a. Popular Vote, within their own class (70%).
 - b. Teacher Recommendations (pro-rated if a student has off-periods) (15%).
 - c. Interview (conducted with student activities director, head boy/girl and faculty/staff sponsor) (15%).
 - i. Any family relationship, endorsement or other level of vested interest toward a candidate shall disqualify an interviewer. The interviewee has the responsibility to disclose any such vested interest before the interview.
7. All ballot counting shall be handled by pairs of people. Each pair will consist of one neutral staff member and one neutral student.

II. Elected head boy or head girl

1. The GPA requirement for all head boy and head girl candidates shall be 3.0 (unweighted).
2. The head boy and head girl candidates must meet the approval of the student activities director before they can appear on the ballot.
3. Elections for head boy and head girl shall follow Article I, Sections 1, 2, 3, 6 and 7.

III. Freshmen membership

1. Freshmen elections shall take place between Fall Break and Winter Break.
2. Only a general position shall be assigned to freshmen; there shall be no class officers.
3. No more than seven freshmen may be student council members at any time.
4. Freshmen shall follow the same procedures for running as stated in Article I, Sections 3, 4, 6 and 7.

5. In the spring, the freshmen members shall alternate as president pro tempore in a schedule designated by the head boy and head girl.

IV. Appointed membership

1. All appointments shall be under the sole jurisdiction of the student activities director, with recommendation from the executive council.
2. Appointments shall be carried out in an extremely prudent manner.
3. Except in extraneous circumstances, appointments will be carried out in the spring.
4. Factors for appointment shall be at the discretion of the outgoing executive committee.
5. Appointed candidates must demonstrate viable interest in council and in their position.
6. All appointed candidates must carry a 3.0 unweighted GPA.
7. All appointed members shall be up for reevaluation by the executive committee at semester. The appointed member shall present to the executive committee their accomplishments this semester. Then, in a closed session, the executive committee shall reach a consensus on the status of the membership for the second semester, and make a recommendation to the student activities director.

Removal from Office

A member can be removed from office before the end of their tenure. The member shall not receive a withdraw/fail; rather, they shall have no record of the class on their transcript for that semester.

Before being removed, a member will be placed on probation, by the student activities director, either with or without the suggestion of the executive committee. Grounds for probation shall include, but shall not be limited to:

1. Unweighted GPA falling below designated threshold (2.75 for all class officers, 3.0 for appointed members, head boy and head girl).
2. School disciplinary violation.
3. Unexcused absence from required out of class council events.
4. Grade in 'Student Leadership' class falling below a C.
5. Two unexcused absence from Student Leadership class per six weeks.
6. Being put on attendance contract by the deans.
7. Truancy, embezzlement, plagiarism, or failure to act in a way conducive to the purpose of student council.

If the violation of rules or code of conduct continues, the student activities director has the sole jurisdiction to remove a member from office.

Ratification of these Bylaws

A simple majority vote of the entire student council each year shall be necessary to ratify these governing bylaws. These bylaws shall go into effect immediately for one year's time, and shall replace and supersede all former bylaws in their entirety.

Amendment to these Bylaws

An amendment may be proposed by a third of the total membership of council, or one-tenth of the student body, in a petition form. The amendment must be approved by a simple majority vote of the entire student council.