



STAR ACADEMY BOSTON

STUDENT COUNCIL CONSTITUTION

2026-2027

Middle School and Upper School · Grades 6-12

*Approved and adopted by resolution of the Directors of Star Academy Boston
Effective for the 2026-2027 school year*



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ABOUT THIS CONSTITUTION

This constitution governs the Star Academy Student Council: who serves on it, how members are elected, how the Council takes decisions, and how it may be changed. It is addressed to students, to the faculty, and to the School administration.

The Council is a student body operating within the School. This constitution does not stand apart from the School's own rules: it is read alongside the Student and Family Handbook and the policies the School publishes separately, and it is adopted and amended by the Directors.

PREAMBLE

We, the students of Star Academy Boston, in recognition of the need for a functional, fair, and representative student government, commit to upholding the principles, policies, and practices set out in this constitution.

RELATIONSHIP TO SCHOOL POLICY

This constitution operates within the Student and Family Handbook and the School's separately published policies. Where any provision of this constitution conflicts with the Handbook or with a School policy, the Handbook or the policy governs, and the conflicting provision has no effect.

Nothing in this constitution limits the authority of the Directors or of the School administration, and nothing in it creates a right that the Handbook does not already give a student.

ARTICLE I - NAME AND PURPOSE

Section 1: Official Name. The official name of this organization is the Star Academy Student Council ("the Council").

Section 2: Purpose. The Council exists to:

- Represent the voices and interests of the student body to the School administration.
- Foster a sense of community by organizing school-wide events.
- Promote academic excellence and community service.
- Serve as a forum for the discussion of student concerns, within the limits set out in Section 3.

Section 3: Matters Outside the Council's Remit. The Council does not receive, investigate, or decide reports of bullying, cyberbullying, harassment, hazing, discrimination, or any concern about a student's safety or wellbeing. A member who receives such a report refers it immediately to the Faculty Advisor, to the Designated Safeguarding Lead, or to a Director, and takes no other action on it.

Section 4: Non-Discrimination. Membership, candidacy, voting, and participation in Council activities are open to every eligible student without regard to race, religion, color, sex, gender identity or expression, national origin or ancestry, family structure, genetic information, sexual orientation, disability, or any other category protected under state or federal law.

The Council, together with the Faculty Advisor, makes reasonable adjustments so that a student with an approved accommodation can vote, stand as a candidate, campaign, and serve. A student is not required to explain the reason for an adjustment.



ARTICLE II - MEMBERSHIP

Section 1: Eligibility. Membership is open to students currently enrolled at Star Academy Boston in the Middle School and the Upper School (Grades 6 through 12).

Section 2: Composition. The Council consists of Executive Officers and Class Representatives.

- Executive Officers are the President, the Vice-President, the Secretary, the Treasurer, and the Media Manager, and are drawn from the Upper School (Grades 9 through 12).
- Class Representatives are one representative from each class in the Middle School and the Upper School.

Section 3: Concurrent Office. A member may hold only one elected position on the Council.

A student who holds the office of president of another student organization at the School may not at the same time hold any elected position on the Council.

Section 4: Academic and Disciplinary Standing. A member placed on Academic Probation or on Disciplinary Probation is suspended from the Council for as long as that status lasts, and resumes the position on returning to good standing. During a suspension the member does not vote and does not attend meetings, and the President may ask another member to carry out the duties of the position in the interim.

A decision to exclude a student from an extracurricular activity, including the Council, is a decision of the School and not of the Council. The Council gives effect to such a decision.

Section 5: Resignation. A member wishing to resign notifies the Faculty Advisor and the President in writing two weeks before departure. A President wishing to resign notifies the Faculty Advisor, and the Vice-President assumes the office for the remainder of the term.

Section 6: Vacancies. Where the office of President becomes vacant, the Vice-President assumes it for the remainder of the term. Where any other position becomes vacant, the President appoints a member to it for the remainder of the term, subject to Section 3 and to the eligibility requirements for that position.

ARTICLE III - DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Section 1: The Faculty Advisor. The Head of Academic Affairs and Global Development serves as Faculty Advisor to the Council.

The Faculty Advisor attends meetings and elections and does not vote. The Advisor's approval is required before the Council spends or commits funds, publishes any content in the Council's name, holds an event, or removes a member from a position. The Advisor does not set the Council's agenda and does not decide its business.

Section 2: Executive Roles.

- President. Oversees all Council activities and serves as the primary liaison between the Council, the student body, and the School administration.
- Vice-President. Assists the President and acts for the President in their absence.
- Secretary. Maintains all Council records, including minutes and correspondence, and handles the Council's correspondence.
- Treasurer. Keeps the Council's financial records and prepares its budget for the Council's approval.
- Media Manager. Informs the student body of news and events through print and digital media, subject to Section 6.

Section 3: Voting Rights of the President and Vice-President. The President and the Vice-President each hold one vote in any Council vote or election, on the same terms as any



other member. Where a vote is tied, the President holds a casting vote; the Vice-President does not.

Section 4: Class Representatives. Class Representatives act as the voice of their class, are elected by their classmates, help organize Council events and activities, and initiate the election of their successor at the end of their term.

Where the outgoing representative of a class is no longer enrolled, and for each incoming Grade 6 class, the homeroom teachers of that class assist the students in holding the election.

Section 5: Funds. All Council funds are held through the School office. The Council does not hold cash, and no member holds Council funds in a personal account.

Expenditure requires a majority vote of the Council and the approval of the Faculty Advisor. The Treasurer records every receipt and payment and reports to the Council at least once each quarter. The Council may raise funds only with the prior written permission of the Directors.

Section 6: Media and Publications. Any social media account operated in the Council's name belongs to the School. The Faculty Advisor holds administrative access to each such account, and all content is approved by the Advisor before it is published.

Before any image of a student is published, the Faculty Advisor checks it against the list, held in the School office, of families who have asked that their child not be photographed. Council material is not created, stored, or published from a personal account or a personal device.

Posters, flyers, and other printed material are approved by the Faculty Advisor before they are displayed, and are displayed only where the School permits.

Section 7: Records. Council correspondence is sent and received only through School email accounts. Minutes, financial records, and correspondence are stored in the School Portal or the School's Google Drive, and not in any personal account.

Minutes are available to every member of the Council, and decisions of the Council are published to the student body. Members have no expectation of privacy in material stored on or transmitted through School systems.

Section 8: Internal Committees. The Council may form committees to focus on particular tasks, such as organizing an event. A committee reports to the Council and holds no authority of its own.

ARTICLE IV - ELECTIONS

Section 1: Timing. Elections are held annually, before October 31st.

Section 2: Initiation. The President and the Vice-President initiate the election of their successors. Once that election is complete, each Class Representative initiates the election in their own class.

Where the President and Vice-President have not initiated the election by October 1st, the Faculty Advisor initiates it.

Section 3: Election Committee. An Election Committee of three members may be appointed one month before the elections where the Council considers it necessary. A member of the Election Committee may not stand in that election. The Committee oversees the process and exists only until the election is complete; it is not an internal committee of the Council.

Section 4: Candidate Eligibility. Students in the Upper School (Grades 9 through 12) may stand for President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Media Manager. Students in the Middle School and the Upper School may stand as Class Representative for their own class.



Candidates for President and Vice-President stand as a pair.

A student who holds the office of president of another student organization at the School may not stand for President or for Vice-President.

Section 5: Term. All elected positions are held for one year, from election day to election day of the following year. No student may hold the same position for more than one term.

Section 6: Nomination. Candidates submit an interest form by the published deadline.

Section 7: Campaigning. Campaigning begins once candidates are confirmed. Campaigns comply with the Honor Code, the Standards of Conduct, and the School's technology policy.

Campaigning is conducted through School channels. Candidates do not campaign through personal social media accounts, messaging applications, or personal email.

Section 8: Withdrawal of a Candidate During the Campaign. A candidate for President or Vice-President who is elected president of another student organization during the campaign period ceases to be eligible and is withdrawn from the election automatically.

Where a Vice-Presidential candidate is withdrawn more than one school day before voting, the Presidential candidate may name an eligible replacement within three school days.

Where a Vice-Presidential candidate is withdrawn on the day before voting or on the day of voting, the Presidential candidate stands alone. Where that candidate wins, the office of Vice-President is filled by the Vice-Presidential candidate of the pair that finished second.

Where a Presidential candidate is withdrawn, the pair is withdrawn from the election as a whole.

Section 9: Voting. Voting takes place during an assembly, at which each student completes a ballot for their preferred candidate.

Ballots are secret. A ballot carries no name and no other identifying mark. Entitlement to vote is checked against a separate list recorded when the ballot is issued, and that list is never matched to a ballot.

Section 10: Counting. A Vote Counting Committee, consisting of one trusted adult and one person appointed by each pair of candidates, counts the votes in the presence of the whole Committee and announces the result within 48 hours.

Section 11: Conflict of Interest. A member does not take part in a vote on their own removal, on disciplinary action against them, or on any other matter in which they have a personal interest, except where their participation is required in order to give information or a response.

Section 12: Complaints About an Election. A complaint that an election was not conducted fairly is made to the Head of Academic Affairs and Global Development, who decides how the matter proceeds. Such a complaint is not decided by the candidates or by the members who organized the election.

ARTICLE V - MEETINGS

Section 1: Frequency. Regular meetings are held at times set by the President. Special meetings may be called when needed.

Section 2: Quorum. A quorum is more than half of the total membership of the Council, and is required for any official decision.

Section 3: Decision Making. Decisions are made by a majority vote of those present, unless this constitution specifies otherwise.

Section 4: Attendance. Members attend Council meetings. A member who cannot attend notifies the President as soon as they are able.



Where a member is absent three times in a semester without notifying the President, the President issues a written warning. On a further such absence, the Council votes on whether to declare the position vacant. The member has the right to be heard before the vote. The vote is by simple majority and takes effect with the approval of the Faculty Advisor under Article III, Section 1.

ARTICLE VI - AMENDMENTS

Amendments to this constitution are adopted by the Directors of Star Academy Boston.

The Council may propose an amendment. A proposal is submitted in writing to the Secretary and requires a two-thirds majority of the total membership of the Council to be put forward. The Faculty Advisor then submits it to the Directors.

ARTICLE VII - VOTE OF NO CONFIDENCE

Section 1: Initiation. Any member of the Council may initiate a vote of no confidence against the President. The motion is submitted in writing and states the reasons for it.

Section 2: Grounds. A vote of no confidence may be initiated only on the grounds of an act that tarnishes the honor and dignity of the position, such as misuse of power, violation of this constitution, or other conduct that is plainly inappropriate.

Section 3: Procedure. The motion is discussed and voted on at a special meeting called for that purpose. The member who is the subject of the motion has the right to be heard and does not vote. The motion passes where two-thirds of the total membership of the Council, excluding the subject of the motion, vote in favor.

Section 4: Outcome. Where the motion passes against the President, the President is removed from office with immediate effect, and the Vice-President assumes the office for the remainder of the term.

Section 5: Other Positions. Sections 1 to 4 of this Article apply to any position on the Council. Where a position other than President is vacated under this Article, the President appoints a member to it for the remainder of the term, subject to Article II, Section 3.

ARTICLE VIII - RATIFICATION

This constitution takes effect on its adoption by the Directors of Star Academy Boston.

ARTICLE IX - FORMATION OF NEW POSITIONS

The President and the Vice-President may at any time propose a new Council position. The position is created where a majority of the Council votes in favor.

Section 1: Voting Eligibility. Every member of the Council may vote on the internal business of the Council, subject to Article IV, Section 11.

A member who does not attend a Council vote does not vote; there is no absentee or proxy vote. The date of a Council vote is set so as to accommodate as many members as possible.

Section 2: Election to Secondary Positions. Secondary positions — the Secretary, the Treasurer, the Media Manager, and any new position other than Class Representative — are elected at a Council meeting by the President, the Vice-President, and the Class Representatives.

Where a vote is tied, the President holds a casting vote under Article III, Section 3.

Section 3: Complaints. A complaint about a Council election is made under Article IV, Section 12.



ATTACHMENT 1 - VOTING AUTHORITY TABLE

Where this table and the text of the constitution differ, the text governs.

Decision	Who votes	Who may stand	Threshold
President and Vice-President	Grades 6-12	Grades 9-12, standing as a pair	Most votes
Secretary	President, Vice-President, Class Representatives	Grades 9-12	Majority; President casts a tie
Treasurer	President, Vice-President, Class Representatives	Grades 9-12	Majority; President casts a tie
Media Manager	President, Vice-President, Class Representatives	Grades 9-12	Majority; President casts a tie
Class Representative	The class concerned	The class concerned	Most votes
Creating a new Council position	The whole Council	Proposed by President and Vice-President	Majority of the Council
Electing to a new Council position	President, Vice-President, Class Representatives	Grades 9-12	Majority; President casts a tie
Spending Council funds	The whole Council	—	Majority, plus Faculty Advisor approval
Declaring a position vacant for absence	The whole Council	—	Majority, plus Faculty Advisor approval
Vote of no confidence	The Council, excluding the subject	—	Two-thirds of total membership, excluding the subject
Proposing a constitutional amendment	The whole Council	—	Two-thirds of total membership; adopted by the Directors



APPROVAL

This constitution, in the edition identified on the title page, has been approved and adopted by the Directors of Star Academy Boston. It takes effect on the date recorded below and supersedes all previously issued versions of the Student Council Constitution and any earlier statement of the matters it covers.

Version 2026-2027.1