

The Constitution of the McKinney High School Student Council

Article I: Name and Purpose

Section I.

The name of this organization shall be the McKinney High School Student Council, hereinafter referred to as the Council.

Section II.

The organization is formed to:

1. Develop a competent and considerate leadership at MHS.
2. Create and maintain, among the students, a sense of self-reliance and self-discipline.
3. Develop a sense of school spirit.
4. Strengthen the sense of cooperation between the students and the staff.
5. Develop a sense of honorability and honesty.
6. Develop suitable activities to promote the students' social life.
7. To encourage all students to become active and involved persons not only academically but also through extracurricular activity and within the community

Article II: Organization

Section I:

The Council shall be composed of and operated only within the student body of McKinney High School.

Section II:

The Council shall never establish any matter of policy for MHS, but may at the Council's direction present proposed measures and comments to the administration for its consideration and approval.

Article III: Membership

Section I:

Any student whose academic average meets UIL and MISD Policy are eligible to be a representative. Any member that does not meet this criterion will be placed on academic probation. The failure in any AP or Pre-AP class will result in academic probation. A second failure results in removal. The failure to maintain a 3.0 weighted GPA will result in academic probation. All representatives' GPAs and grades will be checked every grading period.

All Representatives, Class Officers, Committee Chairs, and Executive Council members must maintain the overall GPA required for their respective position on The Council. Failure to maintain this average in a grading period results in academic probation until the next grading

period. If The Council member who is on the academic probation fails to fulfill the academic eligibility requirements for the next grading period, that member shall be removed from office. Any member who has been on any probation (membership, academic, or discipline) twice shall be removed from office.

Section II:

The Council is composed of the council officers, the class presidents, the class cabinets, the committee chairmen, the representatives for each class.

Section III:

If a vacancy occurs in The Council, it shall be filled by an appointment of the council president along with a vote approval by the council and the sponsor. The line of succession to the presidency will be as follows: vice president, secretary, treasurer, and parliamentarian.

Section IV:

In all decisions calling for a Council vote, there shall be a quorum of two thirds of the members present.

The Parliamentarian and the Secretary will determine whether a quorum is present and inform the Council President.

Section V:

Membership status may be determined by the use of a point system. This status is to be determined by the vice president and The Council sponsor(s). The sponsor, Council vice president and the Executive Council, may revise the point system on a yearly basis.

At the beginning of every grading period, the vice president will set the number of points in order to remain a member in good standing. A member in good standing is one who has received the necessary number of points in each grading period. Failure to meet the point requirements results in membership probation for one grading period; a student in membership probation who fails to meet the point requirement for the second grading period will be removed from his position.

Points can be obtained through general meetings, committee meetings, class meetings, and other Student Council activities.

A walk-on member is a student representative who is not in The Council period during the school day. Walk-ons may use the point system to "walk on" as a representative. The specific walk-on point system is to be determined by the sponsor and the Executive Council. Once a walk-on has attained the position by meeting the point requirements, they then shall remain a Representative for the duration of their high school career as long as they continue to meet the monthly requirements.

Article IV: Executive Officers

Section I:

Any student who runs for Council officer, Class officer, Class Cabinet, or Committee Chairmen shall have served on the Council for at least one year before seeking that office or be in good standing with their previous school. Freshmen may begin to form their class representatives without having prior council experience. If no one applies for one of the above positions, it shall be filled by an appointment of the Council President along with a vote approval by the Council and the sponsor.

Section II:

The Officers of the Council, also referred to as the Executive Council, shall be a President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary and Parliamentarian. The officers shall be elected in March or April. The current and incoming Student Council shall elect these positions during a regularly scheduled meeting.

Section III:

Any student who runs for Council President or Class President shall have been an active participant in the prior year's events, in the class or outside of the class.

Section IV:

Any student, who is seeking a place on the Council, shall not have nor had any record of suspension or expulsion during the academic semester or year. Any student who has been suspended during the current academic year may not seek office for the following year.

Job Descriptions of the Executive Council

The Council President shall:

1. Preside over Student Council meetings;
2. Prepare a weekly agenda and present Student Council meetings;
3. Work with the Parliamentarian on organization of meetings;
4. Distinguish between when representing an opinion; and presenting facts;
5. Consult with all chairmen and other officers every two weeks in order to plan meetings;
6. Call special meetings under the advisement of the sponsor;
7. Oversee committees;
8. Inform faculty, administration, school board, and the superintendent of the Student Council goals and activities;
9. Present an attitude that will be a model for all MHS Student Council members;
10. Encourage and set examples of leadership, courtesy, honesty, punctuality, and school spirit by being self-reliant, self-disciplined, and altruistic, a model of the Student Extracurricular Contract;
11. Be the leading representative of the MHS Student Council in community, social, and personal occasions at the request of the sponsor or the principal;
12. Organize and maintain the master calendar;
13. Act as an intermediary between the students and administration;
14. Present all student matters to the Council for discussion, debate, and appropriate action;
15. Perform other duties as requested by the sponsor.

The Council Vice President shall:

1. Assume all the duties of the President when absent;
2. Serve as assistant and advisor to the President;
3. Serve as membership chairman for the Student Council;
4. Oversee members on probation;
5. Type and maintain an accurate general Student Council membership list (names, addresses, birthday, homeroom period and lunch schedules);
6. Type and maintain a current list of homeroom hour teachers;
7. Maintain point grading system files and send out probation notices;
8. Serve as coordinator for all walk-ons, assign them to committees, inform them of their duties, serve as a mentor, maintain current and accurate list of walk-ons;
9. Perform other duties as requested by the sponsor;
10. Model the student contract;
11. Approves and documents absence request forms

The Parliamentarian shall:

1. Provide advice on questions of parliamentary procedure;
2. Make Student Council aware of good parliamentary procedure and functions of the Constitution;
3. Arrange all supplies, secure a meeting time, place, and date for all Student Council meetings;
4. Organize all elections and provide detailed description of procedures and election processes;
5. All publicity necessary for all Student Council meetings;
6. Have authority to dismiss a council member from a meeting whose conduct the Parliamentarian finds unbecoming;
7. Perform all duties as requested by the sponsor;
8. Update and teach the Constitution to all members;
9. Model the Student Contract;
10. Assist The Council president in preparing agenda for meetings.

The Secretary shall:

1. Handle all correspondence, thank you notes, letters, etc;
2. Notify media of Council-wide events;
3. Read all correspondence at meetings;
4. Take minutes at meetings, type up and document;
5. Collect all written comments, suggestions, complaints, and motions;
6. Maintain all supplies needed in the Council office, materials in storage and all forms needed for planning events;
7. Perform other duties as requested by the sponsor;
8. Model the Student Contract.

The Treasurer shall:

1. Count all deposits;
2. Handle all purchase orders;
3. Inform Council of current budget status and maintain a budget;
4. Balance money bag during fund raisers;
5. Check with chairman regarding money matters;
6. Maintain tax exemption forms;
7. Perform other duties as requested by the sponsor;
8. Model the Student Contract;
9. Maintain a recorded inventory of merchandise sold by the Council.

Executive Council Activities

1. Homecoming
2. MORP
3. Induction Ceremony
4. Convention
5. Evaluations
6. Recruiting New Members
7. Meetings
8. Oversee all Committees
9. Presidents Council
10. 9/11
11. Veterans day ceremony
12. Fill the Bus

Article V: The Council Representative

The Representative shall:

1. Support and propose motions and ideas to the Council from his/her class for discussion and Council action.
2. Serve on committees as requested by the President to carry out Council activities
3. Listen to the needs and concerns of fellow classmates
4. Abide by point grading system to maintain membership
5. Attend all student council sponsored events
6. Serve as a liaison to the community
7. Represent model student behavior in and out of school

Walk-On Representative:

A walk-on representative is a student who maintains membership with The Council through the point grading system, but is not in The Council class period during the school day. A walk-on representative has all of the responsibilities of any other council representative, but cannot hold office and is not a part of any committees unless appointed to a committee.

Article VI: Class Officers

Section I:

The Class Officers shall be a President and three cabinet members (at the Class President's discretion) from the freshman, sophomore, Junior and senior classes.

Section II: The Class President Shall:

1. Preside over the respective class
2. Schedule class meetings when necessary
3. Recruit members as needed to serve on class committees
4. Work cooperatively with the respective class sponsor
5. Maintain a notebook of all class activities during the year
6. Develop and promote all class activities including the float, fund raisers, and at least one class centered activity
7. Maintain a point system for the respective class participation of Council members
8. Maintain accurate financial records
9. Serve as a liaison between the respective class and the Parent Committee
10. Model the Student Contract
11. Perform other duties as requested by the sponsor

Section III: The Class Cabinet Officer Shall:

1. Serve as an assistant and advisor to the President
2. Complete duties as they are assigned by the President
3. Work on all respective class activities
4. Attend all respective class meetings
5. Model the student contract
6. Perform other duties as requested by the sponsor

Article VII: Committee Chairmen

Section I:

The Council shall consist of nine committees. The committees and their duties are as follows:

1. Executive
 - A. Homecoming parade
 - B. Homecoming dance
 - C. Homecoming carnival
 - D. MORP
 - E. Council meetings
 - F. Induction
 - G. Elections
 - H. Applications

2. ROAR
 - A. Teacher luncheons
 - B. Nominations and school-wide voting
 - C. Teacher appreciation
 - D. Homecoming half-time show

3. DASH
 - A. Blood drives
 - B. Pen-pal picnic

4. Scrapbook
 - A. Council scrapbook
 - B. Crosstown showdown

5. Energy and Environment
 - A. Memorial gardens
 - B. Recycling projects

6. Green Cord
 - A. Community service
 - B. Community goods drives
 - C. Greencord program

7. Senior: Composed of all senior council members
 - A. PROM
 - B. Baccalaureate
 - C. Graduation; class gift
 - D. Powderpuff football
 - E. Senior picnic

8. Spirit
 - A. Spirit days
 - B. Homecoming pep-rally
 - C. Any additional holiday events
 - D. Informational signs

9. Public Relations (PR)
 - A. Publicize events
 - B. Decorate the Halls
 - C. Social media
 - D. Informational flyers

Article VIII: Meetings

Section I:

Meetings are scheduled by the President and the Parliamentarian upon notification of the sponsor. General meetings are to be held every other Thursday evening and committee meetings are to be held the fourth Tuesday of every month. The President or the sponsor may call an Executive council meeting whenever necessary. At their discretion, the President may invite the class presidents, but the class presidents may not vote on any executive decisions unless otherwise requested by the Council President and sponsor. Before each monthly meeting, a copy of the agenda shall appear on the Student Council bulletin board.

Section II:

The Council President arranges President's meetings for all clubs and organizations McKinney High School when necessary. A President's meeting will include all class presidents and all presidents, sponsors of clubs and organizations of MHS, and will be held to provide information about and arrange large events throughout the year.

Article IX: Elections

Section I:

All elections are to be secret ballot. The election committee shall be composed of the Senior Council Officers, the sponsor and those whom the Council President may select to serve from the Council.

Section II:

Council elections for the position of Student Council President will take place in March or April.

Section III:

It is recommended by the Council that all MHS clubs, teams, squads, etc. have their officers elected by May of the current academic year.

Section IV:

Any student previously elected or not, shall be eligible to run or be nominated based on scholarship, popularity, citizenship, or any other comparable attribute prescribed by the student body, the staff, or the administration. A student must have been a Student Council Representative for at least one year before running for office.

Section V:

Non-Discrimination Statements: It is the policy of McKinney ISD not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex or handicap in its vocational programs, services or activities as required by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 as amended; Title IX of the Education Amendment of 1972, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended.

Section VI:

Any student may have the privilege to announce himself/herself for office, have him/her nominated by another, and or reject another's nomination.

Section VII:

Filing for office must be done in writing using an application prescribed by the Election Committee.

Section VIII:

Any applicant whose conduct is judged unacceptable by the Council sponsor or by the MHS administration, and whose conduct reflects damagingly to the student body shall be disqualified from the election.

Section IX: Election Guidelines

All council members must abide by the Campaign Guidelines. If Campaign Guidelines are violated, the student will be subject to disqualification or removal.

The sponsor, Council President and the Executive Council, may revise campaign Guidelines on a yearly basis.

Section X: Campaign Guidelines

1. The campaigning period for all offices of the Council (Executive Council and Class Officers) shall be set by the Election Committee.
2. During the election campaigning, there will be no writing of any kind on sidewalk, no signs held by stakes in the ground, no windshield flyers, or any other campaign material deemed inappropriate by the election committee or by the administration. The election committee and or the administration before its display must approve all campaign materials.
3. On Election Day, all signs within a fifty (50) foot radius (radius shall be approximated by the election committee when setting up the voting booths) shall be taken down so as not to persuade voters.
4. On Election Day, the candidates shall be allowed to approach the voting booth once—to vote only. When finished voting, the candidate must leave the voting area immediately.
5. Candidates may not bring food or any other items to hand out to potential delegates.
6. On the day of the election, candidates will be available for a short 20-minute "Meet the Candidate" session. After roll has been taken then candidates will be allowed 2 minutes for a speech on their platform.
7. Delegates will consist of current class members in good standing and any incoming class members. Student Council At Large Members who are active and in good standing and have been invited will be eligible to vote.
8. If any of these guidelines are violated, it shall be up to the election committee to execute immediate action...the worst action being requiring the candidate to withdraw from the election.

Section XI: Selection of Student Council Cabinet (Executive Committee and Committee Chairpersons)

1. After election of the Student Council President, the elected President and the Student Council Advisor(s) will select the Executive Committee and Committee Chairpersons.
2. Any person that is interested in holding a cabinet position must submit their intentions in writing to the Council President by the deadline date.
3. The Council President and Advisor(s) will jointly decide the members of the cabinet based on the collaboration and agreement based on the needs of The Council.

Article X: Amendments and Adoption

Section I:

This Constitution is adopted by a majority vote of the Student Council

Section II:

This Council Constitution may be amended by submitting in writing the amendment, its author, the rationale for the amendment, and subsequently voted on by two-thirds majority vote by the Council.

Article XI: Conventions

Section I:

The Council officers or committee members shall represent the student body and the Council at all district conventions and shall be authorized to vote in district matters on behalf of the Council. The advisor(s) will accompany the Council officers on all district matters.

Section II:

The Council officers-elect and the Class Presidents-elect, along with the sponsor shall represent the Council at the Texas Association of Student Council convention at the designated location.

Article XII: Addenda

Section I:

The Council shall be responsible and shall supervise all general student nominations and elections, i.e. "Favorites Presentation."

Section II: Discipline Action

Academic probation shall function in this manner:

Failure to meet GPA requirements or failure in any AP or Pre-AP class receives a two-week warning is issued. If the grade requirements are still not met after the warning period, a two-week academic probation is issued. If the academic requirements are still not met after the probationary period, a second academic probation is issued.

If two academic probations, separately or sequentially, are issued within a two quarters grading period to a student, the student shall be removed from The Council.

A Council member whose conduct is judged unacceptable by the Council sponsor, the faculty, or by the MHS administration or violates the MISD Student Code of Conduct shall be brought before a Discipline Review Committee to determine what, if any, discipline action is necessary. This committee shall consist of the Student Council sponsor(s), a staff member that is not associated with the student and an administrator that is not associated with the student. The decided discipline is final unless a grievance is filed in which the decision will be put under review. Any member who has been before the Discipline Review Committee twice in a school year shall be removed from office.

Section III: Sponsor Definition:

The Sponsor is the administration's appointed representative for The Council and in effect the student body. He/she shall inform The Council of the wishes and expectations of the administration and shall therefore serve as a liaison between The Council and the administration and staff. The Sponsor is final authority for all Council decisions.

Section IV: Grievance Procedures:

General

When a grievance has formally been introduced, that is a complaint, in Council chamber, that is of the local Council nature, not general student body interest, requiring a called general election; the complaint may be registered with the Executive Council. They will consider the complaint and vote using majority rule on the solution.

Discipline

A Council member who has been before the Discipline Review Committee has one week to file grievance on the decided discipline. If a grievance has not been filed during this time, the discipline stands and is nonnegotiable. The grievance is to be submitted to the Council sponsor(s) on paper detailing the reasons for the grievance. The sponsor(s) will review the grievance and decide the appropriate discipline.

Section V: Extracurricular Contract

To be a member, every student and their parent must sign the extracurricular contract. Failure to adhere to the contract will result in automatic removal from Student Council consideration.

Section VI: Cords for seniors to wear at graduation

Criteria:

The student must be in student council for at least two years, one of these years needs to be the student's senior year. The cord is to recognize students who have displayed leadership and given their time and energy to improve our school.