

Number of members; terms; student member

◀ [Previous](#) | [Next](#) ▶

(a) Except as otherwise provided, the governing board of a school district shall consist of five members elected at large by the qualified voters of the district. The terms of the members shall, except as otherwise provided, be for four years and staggered so that as nearly as practicable one of the members shall be elected in each odd-numbered year.

(b) A unified school district may have a governing board of seven members in the event the proposal for unification has specified a governing board of seven members. The members of the board shall be elected at large or by trustee areas as designated in the proposal for unification and shall serve terms of office.

(c) Notwithstanding subdivision (a), and except as provided in this subdivision and Section 5018, the governing board of an elementary school system shall, upon receipt of a pupil petition requesting the governing board to allow preferential voting for the pupil member or members of the board.

Whether for pupil representation or for preferential voting for the pupil member or members, the petition shall contain the signatures of either (a) not less than 500 pupils regularly enrolled in high schools of the district, or (b) not less than 10 percent of the number of pupils regularly enrolled in high schools of the district, whichever is less.

Upon receipt of a petition for pupil representation, the governing board shall, commencing July 1, 1976, and each year thereafter, order the inclusion within the membership of the governing board, in addition to the number of members otherwise prescribed, at least one nonvoting pupil member. The board may order the inclusion of more than one nonvoting pupil member.

Upon receipt of a petition for preferential voting for the pupil member or members, the governing board shall allow preferential voting for the pupil member or members of the governing board.

Preferential voting, as used in the section, means a formal expression of opinion that is recorded in the minutes and cast prior to the official vote of the governing board. A preferential vote will not serve in determining the final numerical outcome of a vote. No preferential vote will be solicited on matters subject to closed session discussion.

