



# Constitution of the Student Council McKinney North High School



## Preamble

We, the students of McKinney North High School, in order to promote a harmony among the student body and the various inter-school organizations: to maintain a better understanding between students and the faculty; to institute a better relationship between this school and all others of this kind; and to raise the standards and ideals of students themselves, do ordain and establish this constitution for the student council of McKinney North High School: To promote activities for the betterment of the school, community, state and country.

## Article I: Name and Purpose

### Section I.

This organization shall be known as the Student Council of McKinney North High School.

### Section II.

The purpose of the organization shall be:

1. To develop a competent and considerate leadership at MNHS;
2. To bring about closer cooperation between the faculty and the student body as representatives of the student body;
3. To cooperate with the administration in all problems concerning the school and student body;
4. To promote in each individual of McKinney North High School a desire for good citizenship;
5. To create and maintain school interest, school spirit and loyalty;
6. To provide a forum for student expression.

## Article II: Organization

### Section I:

The student council shall be local in composition and shall only operate within the student body of MNHS.

### Section II:

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

## Article III: Membership

### Section I:

Any student whose cumulative academic average for the previous two semesters is 70 or above and has either an "S" or "E" in citizenship may be eligible to be a representative or work-on. Any student whose cumulative academic average for the previous two semesters is 80 or above and has either an "S" or "E" may be eligible to be a Committee Chairman or an Executive Officer. Any failure in one course will result in academic probation. A second failure results in removal.

All representatives, work-ons, committee co-chairs, and executive council members must maintain the overall GPA and citizenship grade required for their respective position on the council. Failure to maintain this average or an "N" in citizenship in a grading period results in

academic probation until the next grading period. If the council member who is on 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. Any member who has a "U" in citizenship will result in automatic removal from office.

### **Section II:**

The student council is composed of the student council officers, committee co-chairmen, representatives and work-ons. Also included are all officially recognized club presidents, class officers, organizational chiefs, leaders, and captains.

### **Section III:**

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

### **Section IV:**

In all decisions calling for a student 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 student council president.

### **Section V:**

Membership status will be determined by the use of a point system. This status is to be determined by the executive council and the student council sponsor(s). The point system may be revised on a yearly basis by the sponsor and executive council.

Points can be obtained through general meetings, committee meetings, class meetings, and other student council activities.

### **Section IV: Extracurricular Contract**

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

## **Article IV: Officers and Committees**

### **Section I:**

Any student who runs for student council officer shall have served on student council for at least one year before seeking that office or be in good standing at a student council in the previous school they attended. The president must be a senior. If no one applies for one of the above positions, it shall be filled by an appointment of the student council president along with a vote approval by the student council and the sponsor(s) along with a vote approval by the student council.

### **Section II:**

The officers of student 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. These shall be elected by the entire student body by popular vote.

### **Section III:**

Any student who runs for student council officer shall be an active participant in the prior year's events, in the class or outside of the class.

### **Section IV:**

An officer may not succeed himself in office, but he may hold another office.

### **Section V:**

Any student, who is seeking a place on student council, shall not have nor have 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.

### **Section VI:**

#### **President Responsibilities:**

1. Presiding over General Sessions;
2. Preparing an agenda for General Sessions;
3. Appoint all committees with approval of sponsor.
4. Presenting an attitude that will be a model for other Student Council Members.
5. Work with the parliamentarian.
6. Calling special meetings under the advisement of the sponsors.
7. Oversee committees.
8. Recognizing outstanding members.
9. Be the official representative of the student body.
10. Be responsible for carrying out the purposes of the council

#### **Vice President Responsibilities:**

1. Serve as a president officer in the absence of the President.
2. Serve as president if the office is vacant.
3. Be aware of all committee proceedings.
4. Presenting an attitude that will be a model for other Student Council Members.

#### **Secretary Responsibilities:**

1. Keep the minutes of all student council meetings.
2. Keep the minutes of all executive board meetings.
3. Have all minutes from past meetings at every General Session.
4. Preside in the absence of President and Vice President.
5. Record attendance at student council meetings and executive board meetings.
6. Be aware of the order of business.
7. Presenting an attitude that will be a model for other Student Council Members.

#### **Treasurer Responsibilities:**

1. Keep a record of all money held, acquired, and distributed by the student council and make a report of this at each student council meeting.
2. Counting all deposits along with the chairmen of events.
3. Assisting sponsors with purchase orders.
4. Checking with project chairmen regarding money matters.
5. Create a six weeks form that shows how much money each committee spent on projects and committee motivation.
6. Presenting an attitude that will be a model for other Student Council Meetings.

### **Parliamentarian Responsibilities:**

1. Shall interpret the constitution, rules of order, and procedure of the student council.
2. The decision of the Parliamentarian may be challenged by any member of the student council if the Parliamentarian does not hold to parliamentary procedure. A vote of the student council must uphold either the parliamentarian or the challenging member.
3. Presenting an attitude that will be a model for other Student Council Members.

### **Section VII: Absenteeism**

1. Any absence must be reported in writing and officially excused by the sponsor(s) before a meeting. Any absence not excused before the meeting shall be considered unexcused. The procedure may be waived in the event of illness or emergency, in which an absence report must be filed with the sponsor(s) within twenty-four (24) hours of the absence. Extended illnesses will be considered on an individual basis.
2. Officers are allowed (1) excused absence a month. Only (1) unexcused absence is allowed a semester. The 2<sup>nd</sup> unexcused absence semester will result in (9) week's probation. The 3<sup>rd</sup> unexcused absence will result in immediate suspension from officer duties for the remainder of the semester.
3. Extended absences should be pre-approved with the sponsor(s) and will be considered on an individual basis. If preapproval is not possible upon immediate return the absences should be put in writing with an explanation to the sponsor(s).

### **Section VIII: Committees**

The executive council shall have the power to appoint standing committees from the student council upon approval of the sponsor. The student council shall consist of five committees. The committees and their duties are as follows:

1. **Community**  
DASH  
Energy and Environment  
Greencord  
Health and Safety  
School and Community Beautification
2. **Activity**  
Evaluation and Survey  
Dances  
New Student Breakfast  
Membership (including birthdays and StuCo activities)  
Forthcoming and Senior Activities  
Elections
3. **Spirit**  
Teacher Appreciation  
StuCo Spirit, Class Spirit, StuCo Nights (Games) and School Spirit  
U.S.A. Spirit and Community Spirit
4. **Publicity**  
Scrapbook (photographers and designers)  
Newsletter and Email  
Announcements and Posters  
Web Page and Community

5. **Executive**  
Student Council Officers

#### **Section IV:**

Powers and duties of committee heads:

1. Committees will be overseen by an officer and a committee co-chairman.
2. Committee Co-Chairman will make a report in writing to the student council proper on the activities of their committees; with will be presented during general sessions.
3. See to it that their committees fulfill the duties for which they were set up.

### **Article V: Discipline**

#### **Section I: Discipline Action**

A student council member whose conduct is judged unacceptable by the student council sponsor(s), the faculty , or by the MNHS 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. 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 shall be removed from office.

#### **Section II: Discipline Review Committee**

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.

### **Article VI: The Council Representative**

#### **The Representative Shall:**

1. Support and propose motions and ideas to student council from his class for discussion and student council action;
2. Serve on committees as requested by the president to carry out student council activities;
3. Listen to the needs and concerns of fellow classmates.

### **Article VII: Reports**

#### **Section I:**

The secretary shall have minutes at all meetings.

#### **Section II:**

The treasurer shall have a financial report at every regularly scheduled meeting.

#### **Section III:**

The publicity committee co-chairman shall report all news to the paper.

#### **Section IV:**

Committee Co-Chairmen shall keep a written report on all activities of his committee.

## **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 the second and fourth Friday morning and committee meetings are to be held the fourth Monday morning or afternoon of every month. The president or the sponsor may call an executive council meeting whenever necessary. Before each monthly meeting, a copy of the agenda shall appear on the student council bulletin board.

## **Article IX: Elections**

### **Section I:**

All election is to be secret ballot. The election committee shall be composed of the sponsor and those whom the student council president may select to serve from the student council.

### **Section II:**

Student council elections for officers will take place in March or April.

### **Section III:**

It is recommended by student council that all MNHS 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.

### **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:**

Except where stated, the minimum eligibility requirements for student council membership will be those of the University Interscholastic League.

### **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 student council sponsor or by the MNHS administration, and whose conduct reflects damagingly to the student body shall be disqualified from the election.

### **Section IX:**

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

## **Section X: 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.

Campaign guidelines may be revised on a yearly basis by the sponsor, student council president and the executive council.

### **Section XI:**

1. The campaigning period for all offices of the student council 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 campaign material deemed inappropriate by the election committee or by the administration. All campaign materials must be approved by the election committee and or the administration before its display.
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.
5. 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.

## **Article X: Amendments and Adoption**

### **Section I:**

This constitution is adopted by a majority vote of the student council.

### **Section II:**

This student 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 student council.

## **Article XI: Conventions**

### **Section I:**

The student council officers shall represent the student body and the student council at all district conventions and shall be authorized to vote in district matters on behalf of the student council. The sponsor(s) will accompany the student council officers on all district matters.

### **Section II:**

The student council officers-elect and the co-chairmen-elect, along with the sponsor(s) shall represent the student council at the Texas Association of Student Council convention at the designated location.

## **Article XII: Sponsors**

**Sponsor Definition:** The sponsor(s) is the principal's personal, appointed representative for the administration to the student council and in effect the student body. The sponsor(s) serves at the pleasure of the principal. He shall inform the student council of the wishes and expectations of the administrations and shall therefore serve as a liaison between the student council and the administration and staff. The sponsor is final authority for all student council decisions.

## **Article XIII: Grievance Procedures**

### **Section I: General**

When a grievance has formally been introduced, that is a complaint, in student council chamber, that is of the local student 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.

### **Section II: Discipline**

A student 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 student council sponsor(s) on paper detailing the reasons for the grievance. The sponsor(s) will review the grievance and decide the appropriate discipline.

