

Plano Senior High School Student Congress
Constitution

Revised Spring 2000

The student body of Plano Senior High School, in order to secure an equilibrium among students, teachers, and administrators, allow freedom of expression, insure equal representation of the ideas of all students, recognize constitutional rights, and inform students of administrative actions, do hereby establish the following rules and procedures for carrying out these goals.

Article I: Name

The name of this organization shall be the Student Congress of Plano Senior High School, herein referred to as the Student Congress.

Article II: Purpose

The purpose of this organization is to create:

- A. Good student morale.
- B. Good citizenship.
- C. Good relationships among all students.
- D. Equal representation of all students.
- E. Assistance in the direction and management of student life activities.
- F. General welfare and upkeep of the school.

Article III: Powers

All powers of the Student Congress are delegated to it by the school administration. Therefore, the principal has the right to veto any act of the Student Congress and the right to revoke the powers held by the Congress.

Article IV: Membership

The general assembly membership will be open to all qualified members of the Plano Senior High School student body.

Section I: Elected Members

Members shall be chosen by a general election of the student body.

1. 60 junior Student Congress members will be elected in the spring of their sophomore year with numbers proportional to the enrollment at Vines and Jasper.

2. Each candidate is to attend a petition pick-up meeting and complete an application stating their qualifications and a petition which requires 4 teacher recommendations and 50 student signatures from their grade level.

Section II: Work ON Members

Any student who desires to be a member of Student Congress is allowed to “work-on”. These student must meet specified point requirements for a two month period in order to become a Student Congress member with full voting privileges.

Section III: Membership Requirements

To maintain membership, all members shall:

1. Meet minimum point requirements that are established for each month.
2. Pass all classes in which they are enrolled.
3. Maintain a good citizenship record by never having been assigned alternative school, in-school suspension, or never being suspended from school.

Section IV: Continuing Membership

Any junior who is a member of Student Congress will be granted automatic participation in Student Congress the following year. Therefore, seniors will become involved in Student Congress through continuing membership or the “work-on” system.

Article V: Election of Officers

The executive council membership will consist of the following elected officers: President, Vice President, Senior Class President, Junior Class President, Recording Secretary, Treasurer, Corresponding Secretary, eight committee co-chairmen, and the following appointed positions: eight committee chairmen.

Section I: Class Officers

1. Each class will elect a class president.
2. Each candidate must complete an application stating his/her qualifications and a petition which requires 4 teacher recommendations and 50 student signatures from his/her grade level.
3. All approved candidates will have the opportunity to present a campaign speech in a called assembly.
4. Voting shall take place the same day in second period class following the assembly.

Section II: Student Congress Officers

1. Senior Offices: President, Vice President, Recording Secretary
Junior Offices: Treasurer, Corresponding Secretary, Historian
2. Student Congress officer elections will be held at the second meeting of the newly elected Congress in the spring before their term.
3. Nominations will be held, and members who wish to run for office will present themselves before the newly elected Student Congress. The entire Student Congress will vote on the officers.

Section III: Student Congress Cochairmen

1. Any newly elected Student Congress member who will be a junior may run for a co-chairman position.
2. Eight cochairmen will be elected.
3. Student Congress cochairmen elections will be held with other officer elections at the second meeting of the newly elected Congress in the spring before their term.
4. Nominations will be held, and members who wish to run for this office will present themselves before the newly elected Student Congress. The entire Student Congress will vote on the cochairmen. The eight candidates receiving the most votes will hold these offices.

Section IV: Student Congress Senior Chairmen

Any junior who wishes to run for the position of senior committee chairman must:

1. Attend the Student Congress officer petition pick-up meeting.
2. Attend both of the spring meetings of the newly elected Student Congress.
3. Submit a completed application and ranking of the eight committees in order of preference.
4. Attend a faculty/student interview which includes two senior executive council members.
5. Submit confidential evaluations from each of his/her current teachers.

Article VI: Meetings

The General Session of Student Congress shall be held every other Monday evening at 7:00 p.m. Special meetings may be called by the President or the sponsors.

Article VII: Duties and Responsibilities of Membership

Section I: General Assembly

General Assembly members shall:

1. Attend council meetings.
2. Meet each month's point requirements.
3. Be an active member of one Student Congress committee.

Section II: Officers

All officers must be able to serve in Leadership Class during fourth period and be available for special projects and field trips during 5th period.

A. President

1. Develops agenda for meetings of Student Congress.
2. Presides over Congress meetings.
3. Has the authority to call special meetings under advisement of the sponsor.
4. Supervises the work of other officers

B. Vice President

1. Provides advice on questions of parliamentary procedure.
2. Makes Student Congress aware of good parliamentary procedure.
3. Oversees committees.
4. Serves in the absence of the President.
5. Reports to President

C. Senior Class Officer

1. Completes the Meadows Foundation grant proposal.
2. Organizes Prom.
3. Organizes Graduation.
4. Presides over senior assembly meetings.
5. Recruits members for all necessary special senior committees.

D. Junior Class Officer

1. Completes the Meadows Foundation grant proposal.
2. Presides over junior assembly meetings.
3. Recruits members for all necessary special junior committees.

E. Recording Secretary

1. Takes minutes at all general sessions.
2. Types minutes by next general sessions. (on own time)
3. Oversees point tabulation of members.
4. Takes roll in general session.
5. Oversees representation of second period classes.

F. Treasurer

1. Counts all deposits.
2. Types purchase orders.
3. Informs Student Congress of the budget.
4. Balances money bag during fund-raisers.
5. Checks with project chairmen regarding money matters.
6. Helps sponsor with profit and loss statements.

G. Corresponding Secretary

1. Handles all Student Congress correspondence.
2. Fills out district publicity forms.
3. Reads all correspondence at General Sessions.

H. Historian

1. Gathers material in preparation for the scrapbook.
2. Completes the scrapbook.
3. Makes sure pictures are taken of all activities.
4. Coordinates work on other historical presentations.

Article VIII: Ratification

The constitution must be ratified by three-fourths majority of the general session with the approval of the sponsor and president.

Article IX: Amendments

- A. Any member of the Plano Senior High School student body may propose an amendment to the Student Congress.
- B. All proposed amendments will be subject to the approval of the Clearing Committee of the Congress.
- C. Upon approval the proposed amendment shall be presented to the Executive Council in its entirety for open discussion.
- D. A three-fourths majority vote will be required of the Student Congress to assure approval of the proposed amendment.
- E. All amendments passed by the Student Congress will be approved by the PSHS Administration before the actual insertion into the Constitution.
- F. A rejected amendment will be returned stating the reasons for the rejection.
- G. The student body will be informed of the outcome of all proposed amendments.
- H. The Student Congress shall be the only legislative body with the power to carry out the amendment procedures.

Plano Senior High School Bylaws

Ratified Spring, 1993

Article I: Quorum

One half of the total membership of the Student Congress shall constitute a quorum in order to conduct business. All votes must carry a majority of the vote with the exception of amending the Bylaws and Constitution.

Article II: Committee Structures

Section I: Committee Chairmen and Cochairmen

Committee Chairmen and Cochairmen will be responsible for

1. Preparing agenda for committee meetings.
2. Preparing for work sessions.
3. Taking roll at every committee meeting.
4. Overseeing meetings.

Section II: Standing Committees

1. Unity – Promotes school spirit and club unity.
2. Student Services – Raises funds and coordinates spending with other committees.
3. School Enhancement – Promotes energy conservation and addresses environmental issues. Works to enhance the campus.
4. Faculty Relations – Works to improve faculty/student relations. Shows appreciation for faculty.
5. Health/Safety – Conducts health and safety projects beneficial to the student body and works to promote drug/alcohol awareness.
6. Public Relations – Provides means of communication between Student Congress and the student body.
7. Student Relations – Solicits student suggestions and addresses students' concerns. Coordinates social events.
8. Community Service – Leads service projects benefiting the community.
- 9.

Section III: Membership on Committees

At the first meeting of Student Congress, each member will be responsible for returning a list of the top five committees ranked in order of preference in the order in which they would be most interested in serving. Each Congress member will be placed on a committee based on their ranked list, and this shall be the committee to which they will belong for the entirety of the year.

Article III: Point System

Each member of the Congress will be evaluated to determine active membership.

Section I

Participation will be defined as:

1. Attendance at General Sessions, committee meetings, and work sessions.
2. Attendance at Student Congress sponsored activities.
3. Executing duties assigned by committee chairs or officers.

Section II

Each member will be given a point sheet at the beginning of each month, and will be responsible for reaching a set minimum number of points. The member must get the point sheet signed in order to evaluate their points. These point sheets will be turned in to the secretary at the end of the month.

Article IV: Probation and Removal from Office

Removal from class office or Student Congress office shall be decided and carried out by the principal and sponsor. In order to be reinstated as an active member of Student Congress. He/she may “work-on”.

Section I: Members

1. Any member who does not meet point requirements for a given month will be put on probation for a one month period. If he/she does not fulfill requirements a second month, he/she will be removed from Student Congress.
2. Any member who fails a course for a six week period will be put on probation for the next six week period in order that they may improve the grade without being subject to meeting point requirements. If the member fails a course in the next grading period, he/she will be removed from Student Congress.

Section II: Officers

1. Any officer who does not meet specified point requirements for a month period will be on probation in Student Congress and relieved of officer duties for a month while still serving in the Leadership Class. If the officer does not meet the point requirements for a second month, the officer will be removed from Student Congress, his/her officer position, and will be removed from the Leadership Class.
2. Any officer who fails a course for a six week period will be put on probation in Student Congress and relieved of officer duties for the next six week period in order to raise his/her grade without being subject to meeting point requirements. If the officer fails a course in the next grading period he/she will be removed from Student Congress.
3. Any officer who has an average grade which is less than 80 for a six week period will be put on probation in Student Congress and relieved of officer duties for the next six week period in order to raise his/her grade without being subject to meeting point requirements. If the officer grade falls below an 80 in the next grading period, he/she will be removed from Student Congress.
4. Any officer who fails to meet assigned duty requirements may be subject to sponsor/administration removal.