

**Baltimore County Public Schools  
Student Member of the Board  
Frequently Asked Questions**

**QUESTION: What do you do as the SMOB?**

ANSWER: As the student member of the board, you represent every student from every part of the county. You attend board meetings that are held every other Tuesday, and you also sit on two committees: Policy Review Committee and Curriculum Committee. Along with your responsibilities as SMOB, you are an Executive Board member of the Baltimore County Student Councils, co-chair of the Superintendent's Student Advisory Council, and an Executive Board Member on the Maryland Association of Student Councils.

**QUESTION: What traits are important to be the SMOB?**

ANSWER: There is no formula to be a great SMOB, every SMOB brings unique traits to the job. However, applicants should be the following:

- Responsible. You are accountable for reading oral arguments and agendas for upcoming meetings before you enter the boardroom.
- Confident. As SMOB, you speak to people from all over the county, public speaking is a huge part of the job.
- Able to manage time. Applicants need to find a balance between SMOB life and student life. It will be very challenging to take eight classes and also be prepared for meetings.

**QUESTION: How do I apply for SMOB?**

ANSWER: The application process takes place each spring. To complete the online application, you will need:

- Completed applicant information page
- Five letters of recommendation
  - Your principal
  - Counselor
  - English teacher or Social Studies Teacher
  - Advisor of a school club you participate in
  - Adult advisor of an outside community program you participate
- A one-page essay about why you want to be SMOB
- A copy of your most recent transcript and report card

**QUESTION: What happens after I apply?**

ANSWER: After you apply, you will receive an email notifying you whether or not you will move on to the interview phase. Some students will be invited to interview with a panel of various members of Team BCPS.

After the interview, two students will be selected for the next step:

- Videotaping of speeches to be shown to students
- Video tape responses to selected student questions – also shown to students
- Students vote online

The candidate with the most votes will be the recommended to the governor as the next student member of the board.