

*Constitution of Hyattsville Middle School  
SGA*

**Preamble**

We, the students of Hyattsville Middle School, in order to form a more perfect learning environment, believe that:

1. All students and staff, regardless of gender, religion, color or creed, should have the opportunity to be involved in the school's Student Government.
2. All participants in the Student Government should be responsible members of the Hyattsville Middle School Community.
3. The Student Government should be based on democratic principles.
4. All staff and students should work to create a safe and orderly learning environment.
5. All students shall have certain rights and freedoms guaranteed to them as students of the school.
6. All staff and students will work to promote the core values of Hyattsville Middle School (*Academic Excellence, Creative Expression and Cultural Responsibility*).

**Article 1**

**Name of the Organization**

The Hyattsville Middle School SGA shall hereafter be referred to as the SGA.

**Article 2**

**Affiliations**

The Hyattsville Middle School SGA shall pay dues and maintain affiliations with the Prince George's Regional Association of Student Government (PGRASG), the Maryland Association of Student Councils (MASC), and National Association of Student Councils (NASC).

**Article 3**

**Composition of the Student Government**

Section 1: The Representative Assembly is comprised of one Representative from each homeroom.

Section 2: The Executive Board is comprised of elected and appointed officers/chairpersons.

Section 3: The General Assembly is comprised of all Representatives and the Executive Board.

## **Article 4 Powers of the SGA**

Section 1: The power of the Student Government is provided by the administration. Within this authority, the SGA General Assembly and Executive Board shall have the power to pass legislation in matters concerning the best interests of the student body. All actions of the Student Government are subject to approval by the Principal.

Section 2: The administration, with student input, will appoint a faculty advisor(s) to the SGA. The advisor(s)'s role is to direct and guide the actions of the SGA. He/she does not have voting rights. The student government advisor(s) has the responsibility to:

- a) Provide guidance in all SGA sponsored activities
- b) Chaperone all SGA activities (and secure additional chaperones as needed)
- c) Excuse the absences of students who miss class because of student government activities

Section 3: The General Assembly shall have all legislative powers. All expenditures of the SGA over and above ten percent (10%) of the treasury must be authorized by the General Assembly.

Section 4: The Executive Board shall have all legislative powers save those superseded by the Constitution. The Executive Board has the responsibility to involve the General Assembly in as many actions of the SGA as possible because it is the Representatives, therefore the General Assembly, who express the voice of the total student body.

## **Article 5 Qualifications and Terms of Office**

Section 1: General Qualifications

- a) All officers and Representatives must maintain a 2.0 grade point average or better. In addition, any student serving on an SGA committee must maintain a 2.0 grade point average.
- b) All officers and Representatives shall exhibit exemplary behavior and academic ethics. If reservations about behavior or academic ethics are brought forth by faculty and staff, the administration shall make the final decision concerning the qualification of the candidate in question.
- c) All officers and Representatives are expected to attend all general assemblies of the SGA. Additional meetings are required as specific to the positions listed below.

Section 2: Specific Qualifications

- a) Officers - In addition to general assemblies, the Executive Board is expected to attend all Executive Board meetings. Officers will also attend committee meetings as assigned.
  - i) President - the President shall be in 8th grade for the year of his/her service

- ii) Vice Presidents - must be in the grade level of the grade he/she represents for the year of his/her service (6th grade vice President, 7th grade vice President, 8th grade vice President)
  - iii) Treasurer-must be in the 7th or 8th grade for the year of his/her service
  - iv) There are no grade-level stipulations on appointed positions.
- b) Representatives - Representative must attend all general assemblies. Should he or she be unable to attend, it is the responsibility of the Representative to work with the homeroom/advisor(s)/social studies teacher to make sure the students of that class are represented.
- i) Representatives are expected to participate in the planning and implementation of at least one SGA activity.
  - ii) Representatives must report all actions of the SGA to his/her constituents and be responsible for reporting to the SGA the concerns of his/her constituents.

### Section 3: Term of Office

- a) All spring elected/appointed SGA officers/chairperson shall serve a one year term beginning the last day of school in June, until the last day of school in June the following year. (All elected/appointed SGA officers/chairpersons shall serve a one year term beginning immediately upon the announcement of the election results, until the last day of school in June the following year)
- b) Officers/chairpersons elected or appointed in the fall (including 6th grade vice President) begin their term of office after election results/appointments are made, until the last day of school in June of that school year. (This clause would not be required if all elections/appointments are done in the fall.)
- c) Representatives shall serve a one-year term beginning immediately after their election in the fall, until the last day of school in June.

## **Article 6 Responsibilities and Duties**

### Section 1: President

- a) Shall execute and carry out the Constitution of Hyattsville Middle School SGA.
- b) Shall preside at all meetings of the General Assembly and the Executive Board.
- c) Shall represent the student body of Hyattsville Middle School, when called upon to do so by the Principal, SGA advisor(s), or other PGcps administration.
- d) Shall appoint, with approval from the Executive Board, all chairpersons.
- e) Shall appoint, with the approval of the Executive Board, ad hoc committees as necessary.
- f) Shall have the authority, with approval from the Executive Board, to call additional meetings of the SGA.
- g) Shall promote interest and participation within the Student Government.

- h) Shall, if possible, be a delegate to the Prince George's Regional Association of Student Government (PGRASG) and the Maryland Association of Student Council (MASC).

#### Section 2: 8th Grade Vice President

- a) In case of President's absence or inability to carry out his responsibilities, the vice-President will take charge and assume the responsibilities of the President.
- b) Shall assist the President as directed.
- c) Shall meet at least once a month with grade level/team leaders to discuss concerns and issues relevant to the specific grade level.
- d) Shall, if possible, be a delegate to the PGRASG and the MASC.

#### Section 3: 7th Grade Vice President

- a) Shall assist the President as directed.
- b) Shall meet at least once a month with grade level/team leaders to discuss concerns and issues relevant to the specific grade level.
- c) Shall, if possible, be a delegate to the PGRASG and the MASC.

#### Section 4: 6th Grade Vice President

- a) Shall assist the President as directed.
- b) Shall meet at least once a month with grade level/team leaders to discuss concerns and issues relevant to the specific grade level.
- c) Shall, if possible, be a delegate to the PGRASG and MASC.

#### Section 5: Treasurer

- a) Shall be responsible for the record keeping concerning all SGA expenditures and income.
- b) Shall, at General Assembly Meetings, submit a report on the financial status of the SGA.
- c) Shall be responsible for preparing a budget for the SGA's General Assembly.
- d) Shall, if possible, be a delegate to the PGRASG and MASC.

#### Section 6: Recording Secretary

- a) Shall be responsible for recording all minutes of the SGA meetings.
- b) Shall be responsible for copying and distributing all records of the SGA to the Representative Assembly.
- c) Shall maintain all SGA records.
- d) Shall be responsible for all secretarial and clerical duties of the SGA.

#### Section 7: Corresponding Secretary

- a) Shall be responsible for all approved correspondence.
- b) Shall work with the Public Relations and Publicity chairperson to write the SGA articles for appropriate newsletters.

#### Section 8: Chairpersons