



**NZSTA**  
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## Student elections - frequently asked questions

### We held our student elections but there weren't any nominations. What should we do?

If no nominations are received at the student elections this vacancy “shall not be filled” until the following September student elections. Contact NZSTA for [advice](#) on options to ensure student voice on your board.

Education and Training Act 2020, [Schedule 23\(13\)2](#).

### Our student representative decided not to return to school in the new year. What should we do?

In these circumstances a casual vacancy is created, and the board has to hold a by-election.

Education and Training Act 2020, [Schedule 23\(13\)4](#).

### Help! Our board forgot to run a student election this year. Do we still have to do this?

Every board with students in above year 9 must hold a student election in September each year. If your board has not done this it needs to ask the Ministry of Education for an extension of time to hold its elections. Email: [trustee.elections@education.govt.nz](mailto:trustee.elections@education.govt.nz).

### Our board values its student voice and would like to have its second-highest polling student on the board also. Can we do this?

There can only be one student representative elected onto the board, but the board could look at co-opting another student onto the board. You can find more information about this process [here](#).

The board can also contact NZSTA [here](#) to discuss if co-optation is available to them.

You can also contact NZSTA for [advice](#).

## Would the co-opted student be able to speak and vote at board meetings?

Co-opted board members have the same speaking rights and decision-making power around the board table as every other person on the board.

## What training opportunities are available for our new student representative?

- NZSTA runs nationally advertised workshops in each region for student representatives. These are usually held in term 4, following the student elections (each September)
  - Student representatives can register for all other NZSTA nationally advertised workshops notified on [NZSTA Knowledge Hub](#) and regionally
  - They are welcome to [contact](#) NZSTA for more information on our professional learning and development programmes and for [advice](#).
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