



CENTER FOR SUPPORTIVE SCHOOLS

## *Let Students Lead* **Youth Advisory Board Application**

The purpose of CSS's Let Students Lead Youth Advisory Board is to build a space where the youth within our communities are helping co-create a line of work that's specialized for them. The YAB integrates students into CSS so that youth provide input and give insight into our programs and services.

Our programs can be created for the people, by the people. We believe that students should be an integral part of that process, creating opportunities for themselves, their peers & their communities! (*& that's on peridot.*)

At CSS we understand that no two children are alike, therefore, having constant feedback from different students can help the curriculum adapt to the many learning styles in the world. As an organization that serves youth, it is imperative that we give youth the space to let us know what they want.

### **Program Components**

The YAB will consist of 12-15 students who are entering 8th - 12th grade at the start of the school year & who have participated in any of CSS's programming; including Peer Group Connection (PGC), Achievement Mentoring (AM), Teen PEP, Community Schools and/or Campaign Connect.

Each YAB member will participate in a subcommittee as their area of focus for the year and work on a specific project, which the subcommittee will decide on.

### **Here are the Subcommittees Teams:**

- **Curriculum Team:** This group will focus on providing feedback on our curriculum & current programming, offer ideas for new outreaches or activities and/or organize focus groups, surveys or other ways to gather more feedback from students & community members about our work.

- **Social Media Team:** This group will work on social media efforts, support CSS as an ambassador online & work with CSS staff & students to create and collect content to share online.
- **Outreach Team:** This group will support our fundraising & event planning efforts & come up with possible projects to implement throughout the year that engage and support our community.

## YAB Eligibility & Requirements

YAB members should be able to serve for one year (*October 2021-June 2022*)

All members should be able to attend **9 meetings/year** (*plus additional work time and events as needed*):

- October Kick-off Retreat
- November Board Meeting
- December Meeting
- January Meeting
- February Mid-Year Retreat
- March Meeting
- April Meeting
- May Meeting
- June End-of-year Closing

The YAB will **meet on Zoom once a month** for **2 hours** and attend a portion of the CSS Board Retreat in the Fall. Our first meeting & our mid-year meeting will function as virtual retreats to plan and connect. The YAB meetings will be hosted by Youth Consultants, Kiana & Janikaa, as well as CSS staff member, Shelly Horn. Current members of the Board will be invited to attend meetings & support the YAB's work.

Each member will receive a *\$500 stipend* for their work over the 9 month commitment (*\$250 in January and \$250 in June*).

YAB members should also be willing to voice your opinion & work collaboratively as part of a team.

We are looking for:

- A diverse group of young people who are or have been involved in a CSS program and interested in supporting the organization's growth and development along with their school's community.
- Students who are passionate about influencing the direction of the work at CSS and have the ability to inspire and engage other youth and adults towards action.

Applicants can consider the following skill strengths:

- Excellent creativity and communication skills
- Ability to collaborate virtually with others in various formats
- A sense of responsibility to their community & to others

Applicants may also grow with the following opportunities:

- Opportunities to facilitate virtually to peers and adults as well as give and receive feedback
- Development of leadership skills
- Networking and community building
- Room to grow and try new things/opportunities to be your best self in a safe and supportive environment

**Please Print Clearly & Answer All Questions**

Your Name:

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Your Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Your Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Your Current Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Current School: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Address:

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Best way to contact you for Youth Advisory Board reminders (check one):

*Email*    Cell    House Phone

Your Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Email:

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Your Parents/Guardians Names:

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Parent/Guardian Contact Information:

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**Please answer the following questions:**

1. What are some of your skills, hobbies, or interests? Please include your extracurricular activities and any work obligations.

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2. Please describe why you want to be on the Let Students Lead Youth Advisory Board and what kinds of topics you would like to discuss.

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3. Describe an activity or event you think youth would be interested in as a forum to discuss these topics.

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4. Why do you feel you would be qualified to be on a Youth Advisory Board?

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5. Which subcommittee are you most interested in?

**Curriculum Team:** This group will focus on providing feedback on our curriculum & current programming, offer ideas for new outreaches or activities and/or organize focus groups, surveys or other ways to gather more feedback from students & community members about our work.

**Social Media Team:** This group will work on social media efforts, support CSS as an ambassador online & work with CSS staff & students to create and collect content to share online.

**Outreach Team:** This group will support our fundraising & event planning efforts & come up with possible projects to implement throughout the year that engage and support our community.

*We can't wait to meet you!*

**For the Student:**

I have read and understand the requirements of the Let Students Lead Youth Advisory Board. By submitting this application to the Let Students Lead Youth Advisory Board, I am committing to all of the requirements including attending 9 meetings/year, including the Fall & Spring retreats and working on projects as assigned in the subcommittees teams.

Student's signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**To the Parent/Guardian:**

I understand that my child is applying for a position on the Center for Supportive Schools (CSS) Let Students Lead Youth Advisory Board. I understand the YAB is a one-year commitment. I will support my child if he/she is selected and assist them by providing ways for them to participate in online scheduled meetings on **Zoom** as well as helping them with the projects they are working on.

Parent's/Guardian's signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_