

Student Member of the Board (SMOB) Application Form

Student Information

First Name: Riya

Last Name: Patel

Date of Birth: 10/21/2008

Cell Phone: 989-944-7070

Personal Email Address: riyap1722@gmail.com

High School: Saginaw Arts & Sciences Academy

Grade Level for 2025-2026 School Year: Junior / Senior (circle one)

Current GPA (preceding quarter): 4.0 (Must be 3.0 or higher)

Parent/Guardian Information

Parent/Guardian Name(s): Chhayaben Patel

Parent/Guardian Cell Phone: 989-906-1654

Parent/Guardian Email Address: chhayabenpatel78@yahoo.com

Application Checklist (to submit as ONE PDF):

- ☐ Completed Application Form
- ☐ Essay Responses (2 essays, 250 words each)
- ☐ Resume (typed)
- ☐ Student Biography (maximum 300 words)
- ☐ Three Letters of Recommendation (Principal, Teacher, Community Leader)
- ☐ Signed Publicity Release Form (Back of Information Card)

Certification

I certify that the information provided in this application is accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge.

Student Signature: Biya Patel Date: 6/12/25

Parent/Guardian Signature: Ganesh Patel Date: 6/12/25

Submit Completed Application to:

Assistant Superintendent of Secondary Curriculum & Instruction

Email: mfoley@spsd.net

Riya Ganesh Patel

(989)-944-7070

riyap1722@gmail.com

Objective

Driven high school student with 4.0/4.0 GPA with excellent interpersonal and organizational skills. Passionate about science, research, and medicine, is seeking a challenging position to learn more about the industry.

Education

Saginaw Arts and Sciences Academy- Saginaw, MI (2019-Present) • GPA: 4.0

Delta College (Dual Enrollment)- Saginaw, MI (2023-2024) • GPA: 4.0

- Medical Terminology: 2 credits, 1 semester
- Psychology: 4 credits, 1 semester

Saginaw Career Complex (Medical Careers)- Saginaw, MI (2024-2026)

Extracurricular Involvement & Experiences

Flint Regional Science and Engineering Fair 2019 - Present

National Junior Honor Society 2020 - 2021

Camp Infinity 2020 - 2023

SASA Cheer 2021 - 2022

Model United Nations 2022 - Present

Chem Club 2022 - 2023

DECA Club 2022-2023

Saginaw United Varsity Soccer 2022 - 2023

Science Quiz Bowl 2023 - 2024

Culinary Club 2023 - 2024

Environmental Club 2023 - 2024

Robotics 2023 - 2024

Math Olympics 2023

CMU Health Career Pipeline Program 2023

Michigan Tech Summer Youth Program (NSTI) 2024

16 Strong Youth Advocacy Board 2024-2025
BigFuture Ambassador 2024-2025
National Honor Society 2024-2025
Model United Nations Club President 2024-2025
STEM Club Secretary 2024-2025
HOSA 2024-2025
HSAFP Club Project Lead 2023-2025
SASA Varsity Soccer 2024-2025
Covenant Volunteer 2025

Employment Experience

Saginaw Discount Pharmacy: Pharmacy Cashier 06/23-Present

- Communicating with patients, pharmacists, and technicians, managing patient data, prescriptions, and inventory, compiling data and filing paperwork.

Shadowing Experience

Saginaw Discount Pharmacy: Shadowing 2023

- Shadowed multiple technicians and pharmacist interacting with patients, labeling prescriptions, and filling prescriptions.

Awards and Honors

Flint Science Fair Junior Division - 4rd place 2022

- Received award and money for research project: Effects of OTC drugs on Daphnia Magna

Stand Up Student 2022

- Received award for showing stand up student behavior

Stand Up Student 2023

- Received award for showing stand up student behavior

Semmunia 2: Outstanding Delegate (India) 2023

- Received award for being an outstanding delegate for the country of India

Flint Science Fair Senior Division - Professional Award 2024

- Received award from McLaren Health Care in Cellular & Molecular Biology

Stand Up Student 2024

- Received award for showing stand up student behavior

BigFuture Engagement Rockstar 2024

- Received award for exceptional enthusiasm and consistent engagement

HOSA Regionals Pharmacology - 1st Place 2024

- Received award for knowledge in pharmacology field

Academic Honor Roll 2020- Present: Received every semester for receiving GPA higher than 3.5

National Honor Society 2024-2025

What is one significant issue facing students in our district today, and how should the Board address it?

One significant issue facing our students in our district today is the growing mental health crisis. Students face heavy amounts of pressure, stress, anxiety, due to academic pressures, sports, and even social dynamics. This is something that can discourage students from participating and truly experiencing highschool. In fact, almost half of the children in the United States have experienced at least one adverse childhood experience. Adverse childhood experiences (ACE's) are potentially traumatic events that have lasting effects on health which could stem into chronic health conditions. It is important for students to know that mental health is something to be taken seriously and there are various ways this can be approached. The Board can address it by ensuring that students have access to crisis hotlines, create mental health surveys, and provide resources to those who need it. Previously, I have worked with a nonprofit called 16strong to learn and educate others about ACE's and mental health. If there was any possibility that the school district could work with community and local mental health organizations to spread more awareness and resources for support and/or even therapy that would be helpful to many. By taking steps as such, the Board can proactively address the growing mental health crisis that can challenge many students especially when they may be held to higher standards. Fostering a school environment where all students feel welcomed and supported is important and these steps help ensure students reach their full potential.

What do you believe is the role of the Student Member of the Board, and how would you contribute meaningfully in this role?

The Student Member of the Board (SMOB) is a vital and unique role in a school district that serves as the voice of the student body. The role of the SMOB is something that should be taken seriously and given to someone who advocates for students and their interests. The SMOB needs to think about policies and ideas that directly benefit students. It is important that everyone's voice is heard and all narratives are considered and the SMOB offers exactly that. During Board discussions it is important to ensure that decisions that are made for the students have a positive impact on the students and their educational experiences. The SMOB helps connect the Board to the student body and helps increase transparency to inform students and help them feel more engaged about the decisions that occur. By providing first hand student perspectives, the SMOB can elevate discussions by providing new and relative insight. I could specifically contribute to this role in various ways. Not only would I want to ensure that all voices are heard even the marginalized voices I would try my best to provide helpful input to the Board. As someone who is both in clubs and sports, I feel that I can truly connect with people from different grades and viewpoints to truly know what is going on in my school. I am willing to ensure that rather than a presence during the Board meetings, I can be impactful and helpful in shaping our school district to truly serve the students to inspire and uplift them.

Student Biography

My name is Riya Patel, I am a rising senior at Saginaw Arts and Sciences Academy. I am in the math and science concentration and I have been since 6th grade. I am involved in various extracurricular activities. I am in the National Honor Society where I just completed 50 hours of service through my junior year. I am also in the Model United Nations club where I take on the role of president which is also known as the secretary general. I also go to the Saginaw Career Complex in the morning. This year I was in the medical careers class, but next year I will be in the medical academy program. Through SCC I am able to compete in HOSA. In HOSA, I competed in the Pharmacology event and I won first place in my region and got to move onto states. I also played soccer this year, this is the first time my school has had its own team. I have been playing soccer my whole life whether it be recreational, club, or school. This year I also got an opportunity to be a BigFuture Ambassador where I had to attend meetings to spread information about the BigFuture app and more about collegeboard to my fellow peers and even some of my teachers. I won an engagement award for the amount of dedication that I put in. Outside of school I have many other hobbies and interests. Some of my hobbies include playing pickleball with my friends, walking my dog, and listening to and learning to play music. I am interested in this position because I would like to do more to help the people in my school and community as someone who first hand sees how much people can struggle due to school and I would like to alleviate some of their struggles if I am given the opportunity to do so.

Saginaw Public School District

Student Member of the Board (SMOB) Recommendation Form

Applicant Name: Riya Patel

Recommender Name: Ganesh Patel

Recommender Title/Position: Pharmacy Manager

School/Organization: Saginaw Discount Pharmacy

Email Address: ganeshpatel75@yahoo.com

Phone Number: 989-906-1476

Applicant Qualities

Please rate the applicant in the following areas based on your knowledge of their skills and character.

Select one: Excellent, Good, Satisfactory, Needs Improvement, or Not Observed.

Characteristic	Excellent	Good	Satisfactory	Needs Improvement	Not Observed
Leadership skills	✓				
Communication skills	✓				
Ability to represent diverse student voices	✓				
Maturity and professionalism	✓				
Ability to work collaboratively	✓				
Critical thinking and problem-solving skills	✓				
Empathy and understanding of others	✓				
Responsibility and dependability	✓				

1. How long have you known the applicant? (Check one)

- ☐ 0-1 year
☐ 2-3 years
☐ 4-5 years
☐ More than 5 years

2. In what capacity have you known the applicant?

(e.g., teacher, coach, community mentor)

Riya works at my pharmacy and is my daughter.

3. What qualities does the applicant possess that would make them an effective Student Member of the Board?

Riya is smart, hard working, and resilient. She is good at communicating and adapts very quickly. These are just a few of the qualities Riya poses that make her an ideal candidate.

4. Provide a brief example demonstrating the applicant's leadership, advocacy, or impact within the school or community.

Riya is always working hard and treating customers with respect and kindness. She always makes sure that customers and classmates are always treated fairly.

5. Additional comments or observations that support the applicant's candidacy:

Riya is a talented student who also is an athlete, participates in many clubs, and works at a pharmacy all while maintaining good grades and volunteering 50+ hours.

Signature: Gunesht Patel

Date: 6/12/25

Saginaw Public School District

Student Member of the Board (SMOB) Recommendation Form

Applicant Name: Biya Patel
 Recommender Name: Elizabeth Gade-Rodgers
 Recommender Title/Position: Global Studies Teacher, NHTS advisor
 School/Organization: SASA
 Email Address: egade@spsd.net
 Phone Number: 989 954 8372

Applicant Qualities

Please rate the applicant in the following areas based on your knowledge of their skills and character.
 Select one: Excellent, Good, Satisfactory, Needs Improvement, or Not Observed.

Characteristic	Excellent	Good	Satisfactory	Needs Improvement	Not Observed
Leadership skills	✓				
Communication skills	✓				
Ability to represent diverse student voices	✓				
Maturity and professionalism	✓				
Ability to work collaboratively	✓				
Critical thinking and problem-solving skills	✓				
Empathy and understanding of others	✓				
Responsibility and dependability	✓				

1. How long have you known the applicant? (Check one)

- ☐ 0-1 year
☒ 2-3 years
☐ 4-5 years
☐ More than 5 years

2. In what capacity have you known the applicant?

(e.g., teacher, coach, community mentor)

Biya is a student in my AP government and

3. What qualities does the applicant possess that would make them an effective Student Member of the Board?

Riya is bright, curious, and detailed in her speech, writing, and social interactions. She is a very hard worker and an excellent collaborator.

4. Provide a brief example demonstrating the applicant's leadership, advocacy, or impact within the school or community.

Within the classroom, Riya takes a leadership role in discussions. Within National Honor Society, she has worked with enthusiasm in community projects like our positive results parade, our blood drives, and pet collection for the county animal shelter.

5. Additional comments or observations that support the applicant's candidacy:

Academically, Riya is a standout student who has demonstrated the maturity and time management skills necessary for the successful execution of this demanding role.

Signature: 

Date: 6/12/2025

Saginaw Public School District

Student Member of the Board (SMOB) Recommendation Form

Applicant Name: Riya Patel
Recommender Name: Rachel Reid
Recommender Title/Position: Principal
School/Organization: SASA
Email Address: rreid@spsd.net
Phone Number: 6-18-25

Applicant Qualities

Please rate the applicant in the following areas based on your knowledge of their skills and character.

Select one: Excellent, Good, Satisfactory, Needs Improvement, or Not Observed.

Characteristic	Excellent	Good	Satisfactory	Needs Improvement	Not Observed
Leadership skills	X				
Communication skills	X				
Ability to represent diverse student voices	X				
Maturity and professionalism	X				
Ability to work collaboratively	X				
Critical thinking and problem-solving skills	X				
Empathy and understanding of others	X				
Responsibility and dependability	X				

1. How long have you known the applicant? (Check one)

☐ 0-1 year

☐ 2-3 years

☒ 4-5 years

☐ More than 5 years

2. In what capacity have you known the applicant?

(e.g., teacher, coach, community mentor)

Principal

3. What qualities does the applicant possess that would make them an effective Student Member of the Board?

Riya is an outstanding leader and student. She advocates for all and excels at leadership.

4. Provide a brief example demonstrating the applicant's leadership, advocacy, or impact within the school or community.

She advocates ~~with~~ for all of the student body at SASA

5. Additional comments or observations that support the applicant's candidacy:

Signature: _____

Rachel A. Reed

Date: _____

6/18/24