

PURPOSE: To allow juniors to start clubs during Q1 in the circumstance of the club being a CTSO that has strict deadlines (e.g., FBLA, HOSA, DECA, TSA, etc.).

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BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MISSISSIPPI SCHOOL FOR MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE SENATE:

SECTION ONE (DEFINITIONS):

Career and Technical Student Organization (CTSO): Organizations that operate on regional, state, and national levels, that require strict deadlines for registration for competitions (e.g., regional/state conferences in late winter/early spring and member registration due in early October/late September).

SECTION TWO (REASONING):

CTSOs operate on rigid regional, state, and national timelines that do not align with the current Q1 eligibility restriction for juniors who want to start clubs. Many CTSOs require chapter registration, membership submission, and competition sign-ups as early as late September or early October. The handbook currently creates an inability for juniors—who make up around half the student body of motivated and experienced students at MSMS—to establish these organizations in time to meet these mandatory deadlines, preventing participation for an entire academic year.

This restriction limits opportunities for students to develop their competency in leadership, tactical exploration, and school representation in valuable academic competitions. CTSOs such as FBLA, HOSA, DECA, TSA, and more provide students with real world skills in leadership, career exploration, and professional development. These opportunities align closely with MSMS goals. The current regulation puts our students at a competitive disadvantage compared to peers at other schools who can participate fully. Since these organizations are structured and nationally recognized, they offer minimal risk in oversight and obtaining a sponsor. They also offer many academic and extracurricular benefits. This bill ensures that students are not disadvantaged by time constraints outside of their control.

SECTION THREE (SPECIFIC CHANGE):

On page 36 of the Student Handbook (PDF page 41), under the section “Clubs and Organizations,” the following would be changed to:

Student Leadership Positions criteria are as follows:

- a. Candidates or current Student Leaders are expected to maintain a rounded 85.0 average. Grades will be checked Quarterly. If a Student Leader's grade average falls below an 85.0, they will be given one quarter to bring up their average. Due to the nature of the roles of Class Officers, Class Officers will still be required to attend meetings and fulfil

their responsibilities. However, Senators and Judicial members will be required to suspend their role until their grades improve, or they resign their position.

- b. Candidates or current Student Leaders may not have more than 2 Cs as a Quarter or Semester grade while school is in session. They may not have more than 2 Cs as a final Yearly grade in the case of Senior Senate Candidates when elections are held in the Fall. This will automatically disqualify someone from running for a position and if a Student Leader receives 3 or more Cs while school is in session, they will be required to resign their position.
 - c. Candidates or current Student Leaders may not have an NC as a Quarter, Semester, or Yearly grade. This will automatically disqualify someone from running for a position and if a Student Leader receives an NC while school is in session, they will be required to resign their position.
 - d. Candidates or current Student Leaders may not have served 3 or more days of in-hall restriction due to Academic (including Tardies or Unexcused Absences) or Behavioral reasons. This will automatically disqualify someone from running for a position and if a Student Leader receives a consequence of 3 or more days in-hall restriction while school is in session, they will be required to resign their position.
 - e. Candidates or current Student Leaders may not have a Level III violation. This will automatically disqualify someone from running for a position and if a Student Leader receives a Level III violation while school is in session, they will be required to resign their position.
 - f. Candidates for SGA officer positions must have finished out the previous year in good standing as a senator and have served at least 2 months in Senate prior to running for an SGA Officer position.
 - g. Juniors will be eligible to run for a Class Officer position only after Q1 grades are finalized.
 - h. Juniors will be eligible to start new clubs after Quarter 1 grades have been posted, with the exception of the proposed club being a commonly recognized Career and Technical Student Organization (CTSO) in partnership/ includes a senior officer in partnership with a senior.
 - i. Emissaries fall under additional qualifications—No emissar
 - j.
 - k.
- y is allowed to have a Level 2 Exception offense. No emissary may have 2 or more Level 2 General offenses.

SECTION FOUR (APPENDIX):

“I do worry about this a little bit because MSMS has a very "try stuff out" culture but I think with clubs like this it would be very much people continuing activities from their homeschools that they are already used to, so the reasoning of juniors overburdening themselves wouldn't apply to this because the students already know the amount of commitment involved with that club. I think it is a good idea!” —Anonymous Goen Senior

“I have tried to start a HOSA at MSMS because it would be beneficial for students at our school, however, since I was a junior, I couldn't start a club, and many seniors were too busy to help start it up. In turn, the registration deadline passed and I couldn't compete and participate in

HOSA like I have in years past. It felt like this was a missed opportunity for not just me, but many students at MSMS.” —Anonymous Goen Junior

“I’m in huge support of this because these types of clubs were a big part at my old school. Currently, it’s really hard to start them here as a junior. It won’t be too hard on the junior starting it because the first few months consist of registration and little to no meetings.” —Anonymous Frazer Junior

“MSMS is only a two year high school that gives students little time to create clubs and get them up and running successfully before they graduate. If the restriction was lessened and students can find a teacher that is willing to sponsor then why not let them?” —Anonymous Goen Junior

“I strongly support this bill because it gives students like me the opportunity to participate in many student organizations. When someone is motivated to start a club and has a teacher willing to guide them, that initiative should be encouraged, not restricted.” —Anonymous Goen Junior