[Strengthen Public School Student Representation on the San Francisco Youth Commission]

Resolution Urging the Mayor and Board of Supervisors to Strengthen Public School Student Representation on the San Francisco Youth Commission

WHEREAS, The San Francisco Youth Commission was established pursuant to Sections 4.122 through 4.125 of the San Francisco Charter to advise the Mayor and Board of Supervisors on issues affecting children and youth and to represent the diversity of young people across San Francisco[1]; and

WHEREAS, The San Francisco Charter provides for six mayoral appointments to the Youth Commission, five of whom shall be selected from underrepresented communities, and requires Youth Commissioners to demonstrate an understanding of the needs of San Francisco youth or experience with youth programs, organizations, schools, or community activities; and

WHEREAS, The Youth Commission has a responsibility to identify the concerns and needs of San Francisco youth and to ensure that its work reflects the experiences and perspectives of young people from communities throughout San Francisco; and

WHEREAS, Approximately 70% of San Francisco youth attend public schools, including schools within the San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD)[2]; and

WHEREAS, The San Francisco Youth Commission has a longstanding history of addressing issues directly affecting public school students, including improving SFUSD educational resources, expanding college access, addressing food insecurity and

[1] "SEC. 4.123. YOUTH COMMISSION MEMBERSHIP; APPOINTMENT; TERMS; MEETINGS; COMPENSATION; DIRECTOR.," American Legal Publishing, https://codelibrary.amlegal.com/codes/san_francisco/latest/sf_charter/0-0-0-345.
[2] Danielle Echeverria, "Map Shows Which S.F. Neighborhoods Send the Most Kids to Private School," San Francisco Chronicle, October 6, 2025, https://www.sfchronicle.com/sf/article/private-school-enrollment-map-21076009.php.

school meals, improving youth mental health initiatives, and preventing youth violence; and

WHEREAS, SFUSD students face significant challenges beyond academics that can directly affect their ability to learn and feel safe at school. 64% of SFUSD high school students expressed interest in stress-management services, while 58% expressed interest in depression and anxiety services; additionally, more than 50% of SFUSD students qualify for free or reduced-price meals, and 31% of surveyed SFUSD middle school students identified bullying, fights, or general safety as major concerns in their school community[3][4][5]; and

WHEREAS, These areas of policy demonstrate the broad range of issues considered by the Youth Commission that directly affect the daily lives, educational experiences, and opportunities of San Francisco public school students; and

WHEREAS, The Youth Commission has historically collaborated with SFUSD's student advisory and leadership structures, including through Commissioners who have simultaneously served as Youth Commissioners and in SFUSD student leadership roles, creating direct avenues for communication between the Youth Commission and public school students; and

WHEREAS, These relationships with SFUSD's student advisory infrastructure, including but not limited to SFUSD's Student Advisory Counsel and SFUSD's Student

[3] "SFUSD-DCYF 2021 Middle School and High School Survey," SF.Gov, https://www.sf.gov/sites/default/files/2024-02/SFUSD%2BMS%2Band%2BHS%2BSurvey%2BWrite-Up.pdf?

[4] "February 17, 2021," SFUSD, February 17, 2021, https://www.sfusd.edu/services/health-wellness/covid-19-coronavirus-resources-families-students/covid-19-updates/staff-digest/february-17-2021.

[5] "DCYF Community Needs Assessment Rpt," July 15, 2022, https://sfgov.legistar.com/View.ashx?GUID=976E7ABD-EDCD-4F23-9EAB-6E298FEDCC7A&ID=11046095&M=F&utm.

Delegate, and have helped connect the Youth Commission's policy work with the experiences, concerns, and priorities of public school students[6]; and

WHEREAS, The Youth Commission recognizes the value of continuing and expanding avenues for collaboration with SFUSD student advisory structures, student leaders, and other public school student organizations, including, but not limited to, inviting members of SFUSD student advisory bodies to present to or engage with the Youth Commission, collaborating on outreach, soliciting student input on relevant policy proposals, and creating ongoing opportunities for public school students to inform the Commission's policy and legislative work; and

WHEREAS, All six youth commissioners appointed by Mayor Daniel Lurie for the 2026–2027 term attend private schools, resulting in 11 of the 17 members of the Youth Commission attending private schools despite public school students constituting 46% of applicants in the 2026–2027 recruitment cycle[7]; and

WHEREAS, The composition of the 2026–2027 Youth Commission has prompted public discussion regarding the representation of San Francisco's public school students and whether young people from different educational, socioeconomic, geographic, cultural, and community backgrounds have equitable access to civic leadership opportunities; and

WHEREAS, The Youth Commission found that during the 2026-2027 recruitment cycle, public school students submitted 71 of the Youth Commission's 153 applications (46%), while private school students submitted 81 applications (53%); and

[6] "Advisory Councils & Committees," SFUSD, https://www.sfusd.edu/advisory-councils-committees.
[7] Yujie Zhou, "Mayor Lurie Gets 6 Appointments to the Youth Commission. They're All from Private Schools.," *Mission Local*, September 16, 2026, https://missionlocal.org/2026/09/san-francisco-youth-commission-daniel-lurie-private-school/.

WHEREAS, Public school students have consistently constituted a substantial proportion of Youth Commission applicants, submitting 50% of applications in 2025-2026, 54% in 2024-2025, 51% in 2023–2024, and 57% in 2022–2023; and

WHEREAS, The composition of the Youth Commission has shifted substantially across recent cohorts, with public school students constituting 47% of Commissioners in 2023–2024, 53% of Commissioners in 2024–2025, 24% of Commissioners in 2025–2026, and 35% of Commissioners in 2026–2027; and

WHEREAS, The Youth Commission staff conduct recurring recruitment initiatives each cycle, including two information sessions (one virtual and one in person), one to two community application walkthrough sessions, more than ten presentations or tabling events at SFUSD middle and high schools, more than five presentations to youth-focused community-based organizations, regular website and social media posts, and monthly Youth Commission newsletters; and

WHEREAS, These efforts provide multiple avenues for public school students to learn about and apply to the Youth Commission; and

WHEREAS, These figures demonstrate that public school students are participating in the application process in substantial numbers, while their representation among appointed Commissioners has declined in recent cohorts, warranting further attention to how the appointment process translates the applicant pool into the final composition of the Commission; and

WHEREAS, The Mayor's Office has acknowledged concerns regarding the lack of SFUSD representation among the 2026 mayoral appointees and has indicated that it

intends to be more intentional about ensuring SFUSD representation across future city commission appointments[8]; and

WHEREAS, The Youth Commission recognizes that the type of education does not, by itself, determine an individual's qualifications, socioeconomic background, lived experiences, or ability to advocate effectively for San Francisco youth; and

WHEREAS, The Youth Commission recognizes that educational background is one of many dimensions of representation and that a representative body should reflect the geographic, socioeconomic, cultural, educational, and community diversity of San Francisco's youth; and

WHEREAS, Meaningful representation requires that young people from across San Francisco have meaningful opportunities to participate in civic leadership and that qualified applicants from different educational backgrounds are considered through the established appointment process; and

WHEREAS, Commissioners in previous terms have created and participated in district-based youth councils, advisory groups, town halls, school-based engagement, and other community-based initiatives that have provided young people with opportunities to share their experiences, concerns, and policy priorities with youth representatives and city officials; and

WHEREAS, These district-based and community-based engagement efforts provide meaningful avenues for young people who are not members of the Youth Commission to participate in local government and contribute to the Commission's policy and legislative work; and

[8] Yujie Zhou, "Mayor Lurie's Office Apologizes for Appointing Only Private School Kids to Youth Commission," *Mission Local*, September 19, 2026, https://missionlocal.org/2026/09/san-francisco-daniel-lurie-youth-commission-apology/.

WHEREAS, Strengthening such opportunities can help ensure that the perspectives of San Francisco youth are reflected in the Commission's work beyond the experiences of its 17 appointed members; and

WHEREAS, The Youth Commission recognizes that the current Commissioners were selected through the established appointment process and that each Commissioner brings individual qualifications, experiences, and perspectives to their service; and

WHEREAS, The Youth Commission does not seek to question the qualifications or commitment of individual Commissioners based solely on the school they attend, but instead seeks to strengthen representation of the diverse educational backgrounds and experiences of San Francisco youth; and

WHEREAS, Strengthening public school student representation on the Youth Commission should be pursued alongside broader efforts to ensure that young people from historically underrepresented communities have meaningful opportunities to participate in San Francisco government; and now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Youth Commission urges the Mayor and Board of Supervisors to recognize the importance of public school student representation on the San Francisco Youth Commission and to support a Commission that reflects the educational, geographic, socioeconomic, cultural, and community diversity of San Francisco youth; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Youth Commission urges the Mayor's Office, when making future appointments to the Youth Commission, to consider the diversity of educational backgrounds represented among qualified applicants and to

work toward meaningful representation of public school students, consistent with the requirements of the San Francisco Charter; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Youth Commission urges the Mayor and Board of Supervisors to support opportunities for young people from across San Francisco to participate directly in civic and governmental processes through district-based youth councils, advisory groups, town halls, and other community engagement opportunities.