

Board Summary Report: Intra-city Student Council

This report is designed for Department or Program Leaders to provide a concise, high-level overview of their area's status, activities, and future plans to the School Board.

Report Identification

Field	Information
Department/Program Name:	Secondary
Report Title:	Update on Intra-city Student Council
Report Leader:	Jen Larva
Date Submitted:	May 1, 2026
Date of Board Meeting:	May 5, 2026

Put Summary Report

I. Program Objectives & Goals (What are we trying to achieve?)

The Big Picture The Intra-City Student Council gives students from our high schools a direct way to talk to district leaders. Our goal is to make sure student perspectives are a regular part of how we make decisions.

Our Main Goals

- **Give Students a Voice:** Create a direct line for students to tell district leaders what is really happening in their schools.
- **Improve School Rules:** Let students give feedback on policies and programs before they are finalized.
- **Build Leadership Skills:** Help students from different backgrounds learn how to lead and work as a team.
- **Create a Better School Environment:** Make schools feel more inclusive and safe by listening to and acting on student concerns.

What We are Working on Right Now

- **Getting Started:** Moving from the planning stage to holding regular meetings (starting with the first group meeting on April 29).
- **Full Participation:** Making sure we have student representation
- **Setting a Routine:** Determining how meetings will run and how students will pick the topics they want to discuss.
- **Clear Communication:** Setting up a system (like a shared email and news updates) so the whole district knows what the council is working on.

II. Key Actions & Activities (What have we done recently?)

- **Action 1: Refined Program Design and Logistics.** While this project took longer to launch than originally intended, we used the "pause" to ensure the program would actually work for students. Early efforts included meeting with School Board Student Representatives to set a vision and create an application process. We then spent time restructuring the program to fit within the regular academic day and school calendar. This was a critical step to ensure that underclassmen could participate and that transportation needs were addressed so every student has a way to attend.
- **Action 2: Held the First Cross-City Meeting on April 29.** After navigating several scheduling conflicts on previous "Opportunity Days," we successfully brought students from the different sites together for the first time on April 29. It is important to note that because the planning phase was handled by district leadership and student board reps, the students currently on the council are now stepping into this new structure for the first time to begin their work.
- **Action 3: Transitioned Leadership to Schools.** With the first meeting complete, the project has been turned over to the high school principals who will work with their building staff to set agendas and

invite district participation. They will now lead the council's day-to-day activities, ensuring the work remains student-centered and grounded in each school building.

III. Outcomes & Results (What was the impact?)

The launch of the Intra-City Student Council on April 29 was successful. Five students from East High School, accompanied by the MTSS coordinator, traveled to Denfeld High School to join 18 Denfeld students and the Student Government coordinator for an afternoon of collaboration. The energy in the room was positive as students broke into small groups to discuss why this council matters.

The most impactful result was the students' own realization that they are stronger together. They shared that a city-wide council gives them a "collective voice" that can actually reach district leadership and the School Board. Beyond just talking about policy, the students focused on community building. They noted that meeting peers from across town helps break down old stereotypes and turns the cross-town rivalry into a positive partnership.

By the end of the meeting, the impact was visible through a list of student-led ideas. They moved quickly from "getting to know each other" to brainstorming real projects, such as joint fundraising for local non-profits, friendly school-spirit competitions like city-wide medallion hunts, and winter community events. The meeting proved that when we provide the space, our students are eager to lead and connect across school boundaries.

IV. Next Steps & Future Focus (What is planned for the future?)

- **Next Step 1: Formalize the Communication Loop.** To ensure student voices reach the highest level of leadership, the communication link to the School Board will now come directly through each site's School Board Student Representative. They will be responsible for reporting on the council's progress, priorities, and recommendations.
- **Next Step 2: Summer Planning & Governance (August 2026).** In early August, students and staff partners will meet to finalize the council's structure for the new school year. This includes launching a formal application process to ensure balanced representation (10 students each from East, Denfeld, and the ALC) and establishing a bi-weekly meeting schedule that fits within the academic day to ensure all students can participate.
- **Future Focus Area: Service and Community Building.** A major highlight of the council's future work will be launching district-wide community-building initiatives. Students are planning joint service projects, such as fundraising for local non-profits, and "friendly rivalry" events—like city-wide medallion hunts and winter competitions—to break down barriers between schools and foster a unified district spirit.
- **Future Focus Area: Shift to Student-Led Design.** This project is officially "flipping" from district-led initiative to one that is student-designed and student-driven. Moving forward, district and school site leadership will serve as partners who provide support and resources only upon invitation from the students. This ensures the council's work is authentic to the students' own vision.