



Board of Directors Public Comment Policy

At each of its Board of Directors meeting, The RISE Schools will designate time for Public Comment to allow its families and other community stakeholders address the Board of Directors. Each speaker will be allowed a maximum of 3 minutes for his or her public comment. The Public Comment period for each meeting will end after 15 minutes or when all signed-up speakers have given their public comment, whichever occurs first. This means that if each speaker used his or her allotted 3 minutes that a maximum of 5 speakers would be able to give public comment at that specific meeting. Alternatively, if each speaker used 1 minute to give public comment that a maximum of 15 speakers would be able to give public comment at that specific meeting.

The Public Comment period of the meeting is designed to gain input from the public and not for immediate responses by the Board to the public comments presented. While the Board cannot assure each speaker of a specific or individualized response, the Board will consider the public comments and any supporting materials provided by speakers.

To sign-up for public comment, speakers must indicate that they would like to give public comment when they sign-in for the meeting. Signing-up for public comment will close once the meeting has been called to order.

While speakers will not be denied the opportunity to speak on the basis of their viewpoint, they are strongly encouraged to follow RISE's Grievance Policy prior to presenting their issues or concerns in public comment.

Procedures for Addressing the Board

To ensure that Public Comment happens in an effective, efficient, and orderly manner, speakers must adhere to the following rules:

1. Speakers must begin their comment by stating their name, connection, or interest in The RISE Schools, and if so authorized, the organization they represent.
2. Speakers should be courteous and professional. Lewd, profane, or vulgar language is strictly prohibited. Further, speakers may not make accusation or defamatory statements towards and against school personnel, Board members, or any scholar and family of The RISE Schools.
3. Speakers may not address confidential matters relating to any scholars, family or RISE personnel or Board members during the public comments.
4. Speakers must adhere to the 3 minute time limit. Speakers will be given a 30 second warning and will then be told "time" once three minutes is complete. Speakers must immediately end their public comments and take their seat.
 - a. If a speaker intends to use some or all of another speaker's time, he or she must wait until the presiding officer has called the other speaker, and the speaker, in response, announces that that they are giving their time to the original speaker.
5. Speakers may give some or all of their time to another speaker.
 - a. A speaker giving all of their to another speaker, when called by the presiding officer, should announce, "I give my time to..."
 - b. A speaker giving the balance of their time to another speaker should announce at the end of their comments, "I give the remainder/balance of my time to..."

Failure to follow these rules may result in termination of the speaker's comments.