

**GOAL ACADEMY  
POLICY  
Public Comment Policy**

**Section:** B • School Board Governance and Operations

**Policy Number:** B-3

**Policy Name:** Public Comment Policy

**Approval Authority:** Board of Directors

**Responsible Executive:** Chief Executive

**Office Responsible Office:** Executive Office

**Originally Issued:**

**Revisions:** 4/30/2012, 6/21/2016, 7/31/2018, 12/15/2020

**1) Policy Statement**

GOAL Academy's Board of Directors (Board) shall set aside part of each regular Board meeting

For general public comments in accordance with policy guidelines

**2) Reason for Policy**

GOAL Academy is committed to allowing members of the public an opportunity to offer comments and suggestions for the efficient and effective administration of the school.

**3) Who Should Read This Policy**

All members of the GOAL Academy community

**4) Related Documents**

**5) Contacts** Chief Executive Officer

**6) The Policy**

GOAL Academy ("GOAL") is committed to allowing members of the public an opportunity to offer comments and suggestions for the efficient and effective administration of the school. Therefore, GOAL's board of directors ("Board") shall set aside part of each regular Board meeting for general public comments, unless the Board, in its discretion, determines that such comments shall be limited to specific items on the meeting's agenda. Members of the public are invited to address the board in accordance with the following guidelines:

- 1) Anyone desiring to address the Board must sign up with the Board prior to such meeting. A sign-up sheet will be available at the meeting location 30 minutes prior to the start of the meeting. The sign-up sheet shall require, at a minimum, the speaker's name, address, phone number, and a short description of the topic he or she wishes to discuss. The Board may provide a venue for virtual participation from a GOAL Academy site with 24-hour advanced notice. Please note: In a virtual-only meeting, public comment is welcomed by submitting a request through GOAL's website ([goalac.org](http://goalac.org)). Under the Board of Education tab, click on Board Meetings to find the sign-up request. Requests must be received by 12:00 (noon) on the day of the board meeting. The board liaison will send pertinent information for joining the

meeting to make public comment. Thank you for participating in our public comment forum.”

- 2) Individuals will be invited to speak for up to three minutes.
- 3) The public comment portion of the agenda will last for 15 minutes. The Board may extend the public comment period an additional 15 minutes (for a total of 30 minutes) by a majority vote. By unanimous vote, the Board may extend the public comment period for such time as determined by the Board.
- 4) Individuals on the sign-up sheet who are not permitted to speak due to time constraints will be carried over to the next regular meeting of the Board and shall be placed first on the public comment agenda.
- 5) Individuals may only address the Board after being recognized by its Chairman.
- 6) The subject of public comments shall be relevant to matters within the scope of the Board’s duties, responsibilities, powers, and authority.
- 7) Any Board member may ask the speaker questions and any time used in asking, and responding to, such questions will not be counted against such person’s three-minute time allotment.
- 8) Discussions between individual speakers and the audience shall not be allowed.
- 9) Speakers will be civil in their language and presentation. Obscene, abusive, or defamatory language shall not be allowed.
- 10) Individuals shall not speak about personnel issues involving specific GOAL employees or student issues involving specific GOAL students.
- 11) A maximum of three individuals may speak on the same subject. If multiple individuals wish to speak on the same subject the Board recommends they choose one speaker for the group.
- 12) Three individuals may pool their time to allow a group representative a total of seven minutes for addressing the Board. Those individuals intending to yield their time must be present at the meeting when their names are called to confirm their willingness to do so. If individual speaking times are reduced at the meeting, pooled times will also be reduced. Individuals who speak for less than their allotted time may not yield their remaining time to another speaker.
- 13) Allowing public comment is not intended to require the Board to answer impromptu questions. Action on items raised during the public comment period will be at the discretion of the Board.
- 14) Individuals may not speak on the same subject more than two times in any 12 month period.

15) Individuals must speak on the topic identified when requesting to speak; failure to stay on topic will result in forfeiture of the remaining time allotted to such individual.

In its discretion, the Board may, but is not obligated to, allow public comments at special meetings of the board. Written communications to the Board are always welcome.

This Public Comment Policy shall remain in effect until it is altered, modified, or rescinded by resolution of the Board.

