Start an SV2 Chapter at Your School

Are you ready to bring the student vote to your district? Keep the movement going by starting a Student Voice, Student Vote Chapter at your school!

Chapters are the Student Voice across the state of Colorado; chapters provide a customized pathway for student groups to support SV2 using their unique talents and expertise.

Individual chapters can support one or more SV2 subcommittees by helping meet coalition goals.

**Capitol Committee (CapCom)** - focuses on policy oriented tasks and is primarily the group that meets with legislators and other stakeholders. This group also acts as our primary spokespeople when talking to the media or other partner organizations.

**Communications Committee (ComCom)** - focuses on social media, graphics, newsletters and press releases. This group builds the SV2 movement by sharing out goals and updates from the campaign.

**Outreach Committee (OutCom)** - focuses on peer-to-peer networking to grow the state wide SV2 community. This group builds connections between students, organizes events in schools and local spaces, and boosts social media campaigns with people power.

![SV2 Coalition Structure Diagram](image)
STEP ONE

Reach out to us at info@studentvoicestudentvote.org, so we can help you get started. Throughout your local campaigns, we'll offer support with all the resources and tools you'll need to spread the SV2 campaign to your corner of Colorado!

STEP TWO

Recruit classmates and friends to join the cause.

When you first heard about SV2, you might have already thought about some friends and classmates who would want to start a Chapter with you. Now that you've found a teacher-sponsor, it's time to start recruiting more members. One of the best introductions to a new Chapter is holding an interest meeting:

- At an interest meeting, people can come and learn more about SV2, without feeling pressured to join right away. (WE WILL HELP YOU HOST THIS MEETING)
- Talk about the upcoming meeting to your friends, hand out flyers in class, and put up posters around your school.
  - If your school reports daily announcements over the PA, you might ask to mention the interest meeting and SV2's goal to pass a law for students to vote in CO school board elections.

At your interest meeting, explain what the goals of SV2 are, how students can get involved, and ask about their ideas, experiences, or questions on students' right to vote.

- Make sure you collect names, numbers, and emails from students who participate in the meeting:
  - Make a quick signup sheet on paper or with Google Forms (https://docs.google.com/forms) to get contact information at the start of a meeting. Folks can fill out the Google Form on a school laptop, or with their phones using a link.
  - Your signup sheet can also ask questions about each students' age/grade, interests, or time availability
- Once your Chapter is fully established, use this contact information to reach out to interested students and let them know about future meetings.

Recruiting new members might be difficult in the beginning. Be creative with how you advertise!
In addition to talking about SV2, consider creating posters, making a Facebook group for your Chapter, and hosting a table on club day.

TIP: Don’t be discouraged if you start with only a few members. Over time, people will learn about SV2 from your actions as a group. However, it is a good idea to keep recruiting members throughout the school year.

STEP THREE

Find a teacher-sponsor to help you register as a club.

Finding a teacher-sponsor can be an important part of creating your Student Voice, Student Vote Chapter. Some schools may even require one for your Chapter to meet there.

- Teacher-sponsors can help you wade through some of the paperwork and administration that’s required to start a club.

You have two options when asking a teacher to sponsor your SV2 Chapter:

1. You can ask a teacher that you already know. They are likely to want to help you reach your goals.
2. Find a teacher whose expertise or interests align with SV2’s mission. These could be Civics, History, or Social Studies teachers, or any teachers with experience in political activism.

When asking a teacher to sponsor your Chapter, you should be prepared:

- Use this toolkit to discuss SV2’s mission and goals with your teacher in-person or by email.
- Be professional and respectful in your conversation.
- If they say “no,” that’s okay! Understand that teachers are busy, and might have family and kids at home that need their attention after school.
  - Thank them for their time, and ask if they know of another teacher who might be willing to help you set up an SV2 Chapter.

TIP: Don’t give up if one teacher says no! They can give you suggestions of other teachers you could ask next. Throughout the year, you can invite your teachers to the Chapter’s events, and ask to post a flyer or make an announcement about SV2 meetings in their classes.
AS A GROUP

Choose a Time to Meet that works for the group and the teacher/sponsor.

Depending on the goals you have for your local district or city, you might choose to meet weekly, every two weeks, or monthly. Discuss amongst the group which days of the week and times of day are best:

1. At some schools, you may have time built into the schedule to participate in extracurriculars. At others, you may need to plan to meet before or after school.
2. You can use a tool like http://whenisgood.net or https://doodle.com/make-a-poll to coordinate schedules. Each person submits their availability, and the program determines what times and dates most people are free to meet.

TIP: Try to be consistent with meeting times. If you need to cancel or reschedule a meeting for any reason, make sure you let everyone know as soon as possible, on multiple channels (text, social media, email, etc.)

KEEPING THE MOVEMENT GOING

Once you have established your Chapter, recruited some members, and had a few meetings, don’t forget about developing ways to help people to stay active all year! As an SV2 Chapter, you can:

- Organize trainings on the Student Voice, Student Vote Act
- Host letter-writing parties at school
- Arrange meetings with your principal, school board member, or other elected official:
  - Talk about the Student Voice, Student Vote Act / students’ right to vote
  - Request an official endorsement or resolution to support the bill
  - Make connections and network - ask about other interested officials
- Look into school policies that you’d like to vote on as students
- Practice mock testimonies as a group
- Take the SV2 petition to school and get signatures, scan everyone’s pages during a regular meeting

TIP: Stay in touch with Project VOYCE and Student Voice, Student Vote (SV2) in Denver as a central hub for resources and information.
Adult Support Goals

Set SMART Goals
- Specific
- Measurable
- Achievable
- Realistic
- Timely

Let YOUTH Lead
Support but don’t try to influence their ideas and decisions. Ask questions instead of giving criticism.

Keep it fun!
Set goals that are in alignment with student interests/skills

Support communication with SV2 Leadership
Help your chapter keep in constant contact with the Leadership Team

Chapter Series
4 WEEKS IN SHORT

Week 1
General Information Session
- Outline the "why" and goals of SV2
- Basics of forming a chapter
- Sign up prospective members to continue meeting

Week 2
History + Policy
- More background on the SV2 movement
- Brief training on the SV2 policy + legislative process
- Examples of chapter goals

Week 3
Structuring the Chapter
- Set meeting times, goals
- Decide whether/how to work with SV2 coalition leads
- Chapter identifies their student leader(s) of chapter

Week 4
Planning to move forward
- Develop task list/work plan for meeting chapter goals
- Prepare to meet regularly
- Make plan for checking in with SV2 staff support