

High School Students as PEOs - §49.13

High school students who are not yet qualified to be registered voters can serve as PEOs per Iowa code §49.13(6) by meeting the following qualifications:

- Be U.S. citizens
- Be at least 17 years of age
- Be a student in “good standing” at a Iowa public or private secondary school
- Be receiving credit in at least four subjects and be passing all coursework. In-depth requirements and exceptions are outlined in §49.13(6)(a)(3).
- Have the written approval of the school’s principal
- Have the written approval of the student’s parent or guardian
- Have satisfactorily completed the training course for PEOs
- Meet all the other qualifications for being a member of the election board except the requirement to be a registered voter

The auditor must certify to the school no later than 14 days after the election the following:

- The name of each student who served as a PEO
- The number of hours the student served
- The precinct number and polling place location where the student served
- Any other information the auditor deems appropriate
- Any other information requested by the school

Important Notes:

- Only one student may serve on each precinct election board
- A student shall not serve as chairperson of a precinct election board
- Before serving as a partisan election, a student must certify to the commissioner in writing the political party with which he or she is affiliated
- Students who serve as PEOs are not eligible to receive class credit for their service unless it qualifies as meeting the requirements of a class assignment imposed on all students in the class.

