

We'll Use Our Voice to Help You Find Yours

Action in Middle School (AIMS) Committee 2023-2024

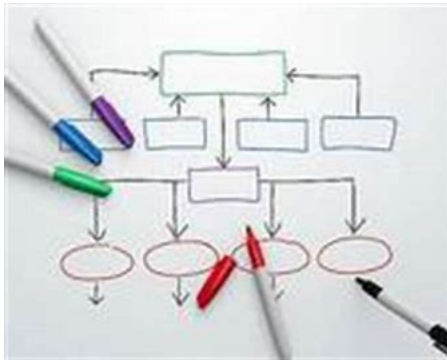
SGA's Responsibilities

Student Government Association (SGA) gives middle and high school students a leadership opportunity. SGA is an inclusive community that encourages students to engage in meaningful learning with long-term benefits. SGA functions similar to a real government as much as possible; SGA students vote for the SGA president, vice president, officers, and grade representatives, as outlined in their constitution. Because it's based on a school's SGA constitution, the actual makeup of officers may vary from school to school.



Students in SGA work together and collaborate to create ideas that benefit their school and communities. You will sometimes see that SGAs might plan events for the student body such as dances, bake sales, or fundraisers. In your SGA you may go to a county-level meeting where all schools in your county have a standing SGA to meet and share experiences and problems. The goal is to take back solutions to concerns and generate new ideas to improve the school SGAs. Whether you work at the school level, attend county-level meetings, become an officer, or run an SGA event, you can be part of the positive change in your school. Joining SGA can positively benefit you and your community.

Structure and Organization



To be able to successfully promote your SGA, it needs to be organized and work well, like having the authority to guide the greater body of your school and SGA to success. Everyone involved in SGA plays an essential role in leading to a successful SGA that benefits the entire school community.

Firstly, the **advisor**. The advisor holds a key position in keeping your SGAs organized. During meetings, some disagreements may begin and to make sure it is worked out as efficiently and effectively as possible, an advisor is respected as a person of authority. The advisor must be the liaison between administration/school policy and the wishes and desires of the student body. Not only does the advisor have the authority needed to manage the SGA, but the advisor also has connections and resources with teachers and other opportunities that the student body of the SGA may not have known.

Next is your school's **executive board**. The role of the executive board is to officially lead and guide the organization. These students are representatives of your school's entire SGA. These positions include but are not limited to; President, Vice President, Historian, Secretary, Homeroom/ Group Representatives, etc. These positions are amazing ways to keep your SGA organized and structured while still advertising your SGA's opportunities and ideas. These positions should communicate with other clubs and organizations to create the opportunity for collaboration between groups. Homeroom Representatives/Class or Group Representatives' jobs may vary based on school, but their responsibility of relaying news from SGA to homerooms stays the same. They could create documents, give a speech, or present the ideas from the SGA meeting. They should ask the students they represent for their input on these ideas so that everyone is included despite not always being directly involved. Through

these representatives, every class in the school will give and receive ideas and news from SGA therefore spreading awareness about SGA.

The **General Assembly** of your SGA also has a major impact on advertising events and the organization. The General Assembly normally makes up the majority of a school's SGA meaning the General Assembly has the best chance of reaching bigger audiences.

Many other positions are not listed that also help your SGA better itself and grow through advertising. The more representative and diverse your SGA is, the more people it will attract! It's important to recognize that your organization is listening to the needs of the student body, is inclusive, and overall, listens to the students' voices. Students want to be a part of an organization making positive change for their school community.

Show up. Being present at your meetings helps your SGA generate more attention to itself, attracting more delegates.

Uplift. Helping the other delegates in your SGA will create a safe space where others will want to join to help address their issues on school topics and out-of-school ideas.

Participate. When adding your ideas to your SGA, your SGA will become better, and if any opportunities for advertising an SGA idea arise, it will help the SGA accumulate more students.

Passion. Being a passionate leader truly shows to your followers. It may make them become passionate about the concept and grow your SGA.

Open minded. When being open-minded, you get exposure to new ideas that can improve and grow your SGA.

Respect. This applies to other delegates and advisors. To be a respected leader, you must respect others. This will also help people enjoy your leadership which may encourage them to participate and be part of your SGA, and its activities.

Teacher. Help others when they have questions and advise those who need help. People will see a person with a positive influence who is willing to help them to lead their SGA.

Presentations

Communication is key when developing a successful organization; especially if you want to help your organization thrive. One way to captivate others into joining SGA through communication is by presenting. Schools often hold pep rallies or assemblies to raise student attention to one idea or cause. Our SGA's can hold these presentations to broadcast what we're working on and to gain student opinion on what our SGA is doing. Through these pep rallies and assemblies, we can explain how you can take action in your school's SGA and raise awareness of the SGA's ideas and opportunities. Pep rallies and assemblies could include guest speakers, themes, and games to engage with the audience and create an entertaining learning environment. These guest speakers could talk about how leadership through SGA has helped



them become successful in reaching goals. In the end, there should always be an opportunity for students to reach out if they wish to learn more about becoming a leader or part of SGA.

SGA could also host webinars to engage the school community in their ideas. Webinars are a good way to reach out to SGA communities online. Some students who prefer to be online are more likely to join a webinar rather than go to a presentation or assembly. This means we can reach a variety of students who prefer being online rather than in person. This is a great way to stay in touch with many members of MASC. So although getting in touch with the rest of the schools to tell them about AIMS, webinars and assemblies are a great way to do this.



Change

We have all heard the saying actions speak louder than words, but for many, that's just unrealistic. SGA provides a simple solution for this issue, where kids **can** get involved in real-world problems such as environmental issues, and take actions to fix them like hosting clean-up days for their community. Not only is SGA for those trying to make big changes, it's for the little ones as well, like proposing changes in school policies. By joining SGA or working with class representatives, students can have their voices heard and work towards making their school a better place.

What also should be known is how much you can learn from SGA. SGA incorporates a variety of skills that will be needed later on in life, such as leadership, teamwork, responsibility, time management, cooperation, and generosity. Learning how to work with others to make positive changes for a community is a life skill. Also, SGA teaches students “how” to become a positive change agent for the community. Many think SGA just talks about problems but the only way to change this depiction of SGA is by taking action. Start small and work up from fundraisers to contacting organizations to confronting various issues. With support from an advisor and strong officers, activities to learn skills and practice advocacy, and a genuine understanding of what your SGA supports, you will find yourself equipped to take action.

The best way to have people understand what SGA does is not to tell them, it's to show them.