



***Don't let your student leaders miss out!***

## Reasons to join MASC

<https://mdstudentcouncils.org/index.php/applications/masc-membership-application/>

*There are many reasons why one should join an organization. Some help you with your career, some help you build social skills, and other enhance personality development.*

### So, why should your school join MASC?



**Social Skills:** As a student you want to learn how to talk to other people from different cultures and walks of life....talk about diversity – you will find it at MASC! Your communication skills will improve because you are interacting with different people.

**Networking:** The easiest and best way to network with students and advisors who have similar goals and interests. Sharing your own ideas and getting new ideas!

**Leadership Skills:** be a part of MASC will help your student leaders by providing hands-on training in youth leadership and advocacy and instilling good leadership skills.



**Voice:** MASC gives a voice to students at the state level. MASC is often tasked with the responsibility to confirm students to serve on task forces and groups dealing with youth- related issues. We also advocate student viewpoints to decision makers at the Maryland State Department of Education, the State Board of Education, and the Maryland General Assembly. Our Legislative Department actively monitors legislation in state legislatures and advocates for our members based on our MASC Platform or stances on bills voted on at our Legislative Session.



**Voting Privileges:** To have voting privileges: Debating official positions on issues that will have an impact on Maryland youth and schools, including a voice in choosing the two nominees for student member on the State Board of Education. Even adults don't have input in the appointment of members of the State Board anything like what students have!

**Representation:** At all major stakeholder meetings including meetings of the Maryland State Board of Education, the National Association of Student Council (NASC), and the National Student Council (NatStuCo) sponsored by the National Principal Association (NPA).

**Recognition:** Opportunity to participate in MASC Recognition Programs:

- The Mike Michaelson Advisor of the Year Award (high school)
- The Middle School Advisor of the Year Award
- The Felix Simon Award (middle and high school student council excellence award)
- The Wayne Perry Principal of the Year Award (high school)
- The Dr. Deborah Dennie Principal of the Year Award (middle school)
- The Karen Crawford Regional Advisor of the Year Award
- Others: Catherine Nora Murray Unsung Hero, Dr. Susan Nash Travetto Friend of MASC, and Outstanding Student Leaders recognition



**Strengthen and Empower your SGA:** The Felix Simon Award criteria is a great guide for improving your student council. Even without applying for the award, you can make your council an incredible asset to your school and its students.

**Conferences:** Affordable high-quality conferences and advisor-focused webinars

**MASC Appointed Staff Opportunities:** MASC has many positions available for student leaders from MASC member schools – Chief of Staff, Communications (director, publications, social media, corresponding secretary, historian), Operations (director, evaluator, parliamentary, recording secretary, student workshop coordinator, technical operations), and Special Issues (director, environmental affairs, mental health affairs, school safety, service coordinator, state legislative affairs coordinator).



**Special Resources:** MASC records many leadership workshops and makes them available for member schools. This is a great “library” of leadership resources to help your student leaders and student council. In addition, there are special “member only” workshops available at many of the MASC conferences.

**Friendships and Fun:** Life is not just about career and making money. It's about building friendships and having fun. You will have a chance to meet people and build lasting friendships.



MASC is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization of secondary school student councils from all over the state of Maryland. We are dedicated to empowering Maryland's middle and high school student councils by developing their student's leadership skills and providing them with opportunities to put their skills to use.

Membership is open to all middle and high schools in Maryland from July 1 to December 31 every year. Only school advisors or administration may apply. Membership is required in order for schools to send voting delegates to MASC's conferences. Non-member schools may still attend the Fall Leadership Conference however; only member schools may attend the annual winter Legislative Session, and the spring Convention. MASC conferences are a great learning and networking opportunity for students and advisors! Complete the easy on-line application and come check us out!



*The mission of MASC is to foster a statewide environment for all secondary school students to express and exchange opinions and ideas, develop leadership skills, and promote student representation and involvement in all groups and organizations impacting the lives of students.*