Don't let your student leaders miss out!

Reasons to join MASC

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

More leadership. More student voice. More opportunities to make a difference.

The Maryland Association of Student Councils (MASC) connects middle and high school student councils across Maryland, empowering students to develop leadership skills, share ideas, and influence decisions that affect their schools and communities.

So, why should your school join MASC?



Social Skills: Connect with students from different backgrounds, cultures, and walks of life. Learn to appreciate diverse perspectives, communicate with confidence, and build relationships with people whose experiences may be different from your own. **Discover new perspectives. Build real connections. Grow as a leader.**

Networking: The easiest and best way to network with students and advisors who have similar goals and interests. Build friendships, exchange ideas, and collaborate with student leaders and advisors from across Maryland who share your commitment to making schools better.



Leadership Skills: Give student leaders hands-on opportunities to develop leadership, communication, teamwork, and advocacy skills—and put those skills into action.

Voice: Help students bring their perspectives to state-level conversations, share ideas with education leaders, and advocate for issues that matter to Maryland students. 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 for 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: Member schools can send voting delegates to MASC's Legislative Session and Convention to debate issues and positions on issues that will have an impact on Maryland youth and schools, establish organizational positions, and participate in selecting nominees for Maryland's Student Member of the State Board of Education and state officers. 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 Councils (NASC), and the National Student Council (NatStuCo - sponsored by the National Principals Association (NPA).



Recognition: Celebrate outstanding student leaders, advisors, principals, and student councils through MASC recognition and award 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. Access leadership workshop recordings, member-focused learning opportunities, and practical ideas to help your student council grow, engage more students, and strengthen its impact.

Certified Student Workshop Presenters: Students in grades 8-12 (7th grade if they have attended a MASC conference and have advisor recommendation), may sign up and participate in the intense workshop presenter certification program. This program enables students to write and present workshops at all MASC conferences.

Conferences: Participate in engaging conferences, leadership workshops, and opportunities to learn from peers, experienced presenters, and student leadership advocates.

MASC Officers: Qualified students from member school may apply to run for President, 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President, or Treasurer. Elections are yearly at the MASC Spring Convention.

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, service coordinator, wellness), and Legislative Department (director, school safety and state legislative affairs coordinator).





Advisor Fireside Chats: Connect with fellow advisors through virtual meetings. 30-minute virtual advisor conversations that are focused on sharing ideas. The goal is for advisors to leave each session with at least one idea they can use with their student councils the following week. Topic themes may include: Building Student Initiative and Agency, Beyond Fundraisers and Spirit Days, Getting Beyond the Usual Voices, Reset, Refocus, and Reenergize, Student Voice That Leads to Action, Developing the Next Generation of Leaders, Advisor Survival Strategies: Time, Tasks, and Boundaries, Celebrate, Reflect, and Pass It On, etc.



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.

For more than 75 years, MASC has supported student leadership and representation throughout Maryland. Give your students the opportunity to learn from others, find their voices, build lasting friendships, and become leaders who make a difference.

Membership is open to Maryland middle and high schools through December 31. School advisors or administrators must apply. Membership is required to send voting delegates to MASC conferences and attend the winter Legislative Session and spring Convention. Nonmember schools are welcome at the Fall Leadership Conference! MASC conferences are a great learning and networking opportunity for students and advisors! Complete the easy online 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.

MASC is a 501(c)3) nonprofit organization of public, private, and charter secondary school student councils in 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.