



National Student Council National Standards and Indicators of Quality for Middle Level Student Councils

*Promoting Excellence in Student Leadership through
Measurable and Accountable Practices*

National Student Council Middle Level Standards

National Student Council identifies five (5) core areas for middle level student councils with each having specific standards indicators of quality that councils in middle level schools should strive to meet.

I. Governance

Constitution and Bylaws: Middle level student councils possess and function according to their written constitutions and bylaws

1. Student councils have written constitutions and/or bylaws and operate according to the purposes and guidelines set forth in those documents.
2. A copy of the constitution and/or bylaws is provided to every student council member and is available to all students electronically or in print.
3. Student council constitutions and bylaws are reviewed by a committee of the student council every three to five years.

Elections: Middle level student councils sponsor general and/or special elections that provide opportunities for students to practice the democratic process and civic responsibility.

1. Student councils annually sponsor elections or similar events that may feature such activities as voter registration, campaigning, and balloting.
2. Election/campaign rules are reviewed with all candidates and each is provided with a written copy.
3. Student councils provide information or host presentations by local election officials or other civic organizations related to election activities.
4. Student council provide voting experiences that mirror public elections by using voting machines, online voting, or other similar balloting methods/tools
5. Student councils include public election practices in their own elections. Examples could include precincts, voter registration, etc.

Meetings: Middle level student councils meet regularly throughout the school year for the purpose of attending to council business.

1. Student councils hold a minimum of one meeting each month during the school year and a meeting calendar is provided to members and appropriate administrators.
2. Student councils provide opportunities for students to apply standard practices during meetings and introduce students to basic parliamentary procedure or similar skills.
3. The leadership of student councils prepares annual meeting calendars and publishes agendas prior to regularly scheduled meetings.
4. Student councils encourage students to be involved in leadership and provide opportunities for interested members of the student body to participate on decision-making or planning committees.

II. Service

Serving the School: Middle level student councils plan and sponsor service activities to address the needs of their schools promote service to the student body.

1. Student councils sponsor a minimum of one service project each year that specifically addresses identified needs of the school or in other ways provides aid to students or staff and encourages broad participation by the student body.
2. Student councils encourage members of the student body to seek out ways to serve others and recognize those students who have logged multiple hours of volunteer service
3. Student councils sponsor service activities to improve their schools.
4. Student council inventories the needs of the school to help determine which needs will be the focus of its school service projects

Serving the Community: Middle level student councils work to improve their communities by planning and implementing various service projects and promoting the importance of serving the community to the student body.

1. Student councils sponsor a minimum of one service project each year that specifically addresses a need or provides assistance in the community.
2. Student councils identify the needs of their communities to determine where their service efforts are needed most.
3. Student councils identify community resources and leaders as part of their community service projects.

Service Learning: Middle level student councils incorporate the elements of service learning into service projects as a means to intensify and personalize the experiences for the participants.

1. Student councils support service learning projects and initiatives taking place in the school.
2. Student councils work with appropriate faculty members to incorporate service learning components into council service projects.

III. General Activities and Operations

Spirit and Social Activities: Middle level student councils work to improve school climate at the school and increase student enthusiasm and participation in school life by planning and implementing spirit and social activities that are inviting and open to all students.

1. Student councils plan and implement a minimum of two activities per year to strengthen student spirit and promote enthusiasm for school life.
2. Student councils sponsor activities each year that reach out to diverse populations within the student body with the goal of providing activities for all students.
3. Student council activities reflect the goal to encourage positive social behaviors and camaraderie among students.
4. Student councils plan and host activities that welcome students from the elementary schools and assist them with the transition to the middle grades.
5. Student councils plan and host activities to welcome new students and help them become involved in student life.

Council Operations: Middle level student councils operate in responsible ways that demonstrate sound financial and membership recordkeeping, evaluation practices, and school involvement and meet regularly with the principal to discuss student issues and council activities.

1. Student councils keep accurate records of membership, finance, and activities.
2. One or more student council officers and members meet regularly with the school principal or designee to discuss student and school-related issues.

3. Student councils maintain written/electronic record of the student council budget, which is reviewed periodically with the membership.
4. Student councils assign the duties of treasurer and that person periodically reports on the financial activities of the council.
5. Student councils maintain a membership roll that serves to track member attendance at meetings and activities and as a historical record.
6. Student councils keep a scrapbook or similar record of membership and other records in a manner that allows students and others to review recent and long-term history of council activities.
7. Student councils provide student representation on school-level committees.
8. Student councils extend their leadership to the district-level by placing at least one officer on a school district-based committee or the school board, and that student is able to give input on decisions affecting the school.
9. Student councils regularly survey the student body and faculty.
10. Student councils regularly seek the feedback of the student body and faculty on council projects and activities through written or online evaluations.
11. Student councils maintain membership with district, state, or regional organizations.

Fundraising: Middle level student councils plan and implement projects to raise funds for school-related activities and charitable giving.

1. The student council sponsors a minimum of one fundraising project each year.
2. Student councils maintain accurate records of the money raised for charitable causes and how the funds were spent.
3. Student council members use smart consumer practices to identify reputable fundraising organizations and benefactors for its charitable fundraising.
4. Student councils create and maintain a directory (list) of legitimate and reputable charities that members can safely consider to support.

Leadership Training: Middle level student councils provide leadership training opportunities for members and encourage advisers to participate in professional development sessions.

1. Student council members participate in a minimum of two leadership training sessions or programs per year (in-house, online or by attending conferences/workshops).
2. Student council advisers annually participate in a minimum of one professional development program or training session directly related to student council or student leadership.
3. Student council officers participate in at least one training each year that is specific to their positions as leaders of the council.
4. Student council members participate in regular leadership training sessions during the school year.

Communications: Middle level student councils communicate regularly with the student body in a variety of ways and provide opportunities for members to practice and demonstrate their communication skills.

1. Student councils provide regular updates to the student body and faculty.
2. Student council members annually participate in activities that provide practice in written and oral communications.
3. Student councils contribute regularly to school newsletters, newspapers, websites, or other informational mediums as a means of sharing their activities and accomplishments with others.

IV. Civic Engagement and Student Voice

Civic-based Activities: Middle level student councils employ various methods that encourage students to be involved in the community and increase awareness of citizenry and activity.

1. Student councils provide information to the student body that explains the civic connection to select council activities (elections, community service, student forums).
2. Student councils host activities that involve community leaders and/or agencies.
3. One or more student council officers give at least one presentation per year to a local civic board or committee (school, city, county, etc).

Student Voice: The middle level student council regularly seeks out student opinion and creates opportunities to include students in significant ways on committees and in activities.

1. Student councils provide forums or other activities that provide all members of the student body an opportunity to express their views and concerns and to suggest ideas for activities and improved school climate.*

* This includes student councils that meet with their principals (full council, a committee or the officers) at least once per quarter or an equivalent thereof during the year.

V. Participation and Training

Local and State Involvement: Middle level student councils participate in leadership training and events outside of their schools to expand and enhance their programs.

1. Delegates representing student councils attend or in other ways participate in local, state, or national sponsored events that provide training that advances their knowledge base and leadership skills.
2. Student councils seek to engage other schools in student leadership by hosting or attending a leadership event with another school

Leadership Training: Student councils participate in regular leadership training.

1. Student councils provide leadership training for their own members and/or the student body.
2. Student councils seek to extend leadership in their schools by hosting training for clubs and/or general members of the student body.