

MASC Council of Excellence Award

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Council of Excellence

2026 - 2027 MASC COUNCIL OF EXCELLENCE AWARD

The MASC Council of Excellence Award Program has been designed to recognize and reward the achievements of outstanding student councils or student government organizations on our state association. This award program has been created from the MASC Excellence Award Program as a way of providing encouragement and support, as well as to provide standards of effective student leadership.

AWARD LEVELS:

All awards will be presented during the closing ceremonies at the annual conference.

The MASC Gold Council of Excellence is presented to those student council programs that are deemed to be the most outstanding in our state association. The Gold Council is based on achieving over 46 points on our scoring rubric as determined by the judging committee.

The MASC Silver Council of Excellence is presented to those councils whose programs are among the very best in our state association. The Silver Council of Excellence is based on achieving between 43-45 points on our scoring rubric as determined by the judging committee.

The MASC Council of Excellence is presented to those councils whose student council programs have distinguished their reputation and have demonstrated the value of student council in their school and community. The Council of Excellence is based on the achievement of a score between 40 and 42 on our scoring rubric as determined by the judging committee.

THE SELECTION PROCESS:

The attached criteria sheet demonstrates how each school's submission will be judged and the categories that will be considered. Applications must be orderly, neat, and complete and submitted on time. To be considered for judgment, all reports must follow the criteria sheet and must be accompanied by the required letter of endorsement by the Principal.

The judgment of the awards will be made by a committee consisting of student council advisors and principals from schools that did not submit applications. The judgment will correlate to the rubric for the award. The criteria are based on the points given for each category. All of the submitted applications will be placed on display at the annual conference after which they will be made available for return.

To be considered, reports must be submitted so that all materials will be POSTMARKED BY FEBRUARY 1, 2027.

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MASC Council of Excellence Award
Book Set-up and Format
Criteria

Please follow the directions very carefully as you are completing your submission for the 2026 MASC Council of Excellence Award. If you have any questions regarding the lay-out and format of this award, please send all inquiries to Paul Branagan, MASC Executive Director at pbranagan@middleboro.k12.ma.us. Good luck!

Book Set-up and Format:

- The Application MUST be presented in a THREE-RING BINDER
- Submit ONLY what is asked for outlines in the award indicators. NO FLUFF!
- Only WHITE 8 ½ x 11" paper will be accepted.
- Each indicator MUST not exceed ONE PAGE in length (12 font, single spaced)
- The Award must include the following:
  1. Cover Sheets for each indicator
  2. Protective Plastic Pages
  3. Divider Pages for each indicator
- The Award must NOT include:
  1. Nametags from conferences or workshops
  2. newspaper articles
  3. thank you letters or other letters of appreciation
  4. decorative displays (except for outside cover)
  5. NOTHING…UNLESS THE INDICATOR ASKS FOR IT!

Scope of Award:

- The MASC Council of Excellence Award will recognize programs that have occurred from February 3, 2025 to February 3, 2026 Please adhere to these dates. Projects not within this time frame will NOT be judged.

Clarification of Each Indicator:

- There are 32 indicators needed to be met for the MASC Council of Excellence Program. Each indicator will ask for certain pieces of evidence to satisfy the indicator.
  - In some cases, an actual document will be required (ex. Student Council Constitution, Evaluation Tool, Treasurer's Report, etc.)
  - In some cases, a one-page description of the processes of the Student Council (ex. Council Philosophy, Goals, Membership Process, Committee Development, etc.)
  - In some cases, a full summary and description of a project must be included for actual projects and programs that the Student Council coordinates and/or sponsors. For these types of projects the format on the following page is asked to be followed.
- NOTE: Please follow the format carefully!

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MASC Council of Excellence Award Project Summary Format:

- **This format is for any indicator that is requiring a Student Council to summarize a project or program that is sponsored by the Council.**
- **The descriptions should be kept to no more than one-page per project.**

The Format:
Indicator Number:
Project Title:
Objective of Project:
Summary of the Project:
Finances of Project (if any):
Participation in the Project:
Time Spent on Project:
Evaluation of Project:
How does this project meet the Indicator?

Format Example is located on the following page.

Indicator Number: 15 Spirit and Social Activities

Project Title: Thanksgiving Day Pep Rally

Objective of Project: To celebrate the end of the fall season and the anticipation of the Thanksgiving Day Football Game

Summary of Project: (Give your summary of what happened at the Pep Rally. Highlight the activities, the recognition of students, teachers, programs, etc.)

Finances of Project: The total cost of the project was $200.00 (you may want to expand on this if necessary)

Participation of the Project: The entire Student Council prepared for the rally through the work of the committees that were established for the event. The entire student body participated in the event during the last hour of the day before the Thanksgiving Holiday break.

Time Spent: Two months of preparation and committee work.

Evaluation of Project: This area is where you completely evaluate the pep rally

How does it meet the indicator? This is very important to show HOW the event meets the indicator that you have selected to represent this activity. Be use detail.

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Procedures:

- Student Council members and advisors affiliated with the MASC collect evidence showing their council meets each of the Indicators on the MASC Council of Excellence.
- The Council officers and advisor prepare materials.
- The Student Council will then meet with their principal where they will present their evidence that shows they have met each standard
- If the principal finds that the Council qualifies as a Massachusetts Council of Excellence, s/he will confirm it with his/her signature. (Failure to attain the signature of the principal will result in disqualification. (No exceptions)
- Following the support of the principal, the Student Council will submit their completed application to the attention of Paul Branagan, State Executive Director at Middleborough High School postmarked by February 1, 2027.

Mail To:
c/o Middleborough High School,
71 East Grove Street
Middleborough, MA 02346

Scoring:

- To be named a Massachusetts Council of Excellence, the student council must:
  1. Meet all required standards and indicators by attaining a total of a minimum of 40 indicator points.
  2. Submit a completed application packet that is neat, organized and follows the directions outlined in the Regulations
  3. Submission includes letter of recommendation of school principal.
- To be named a Massachusetts SILVER Council of Excellence, the student council must:
  1. Meet all required standards and indicators by attaining a total of a minimum of 43 indicator points.
  2. Submit a completed application packet that is neat, organized and follows the directions outlined in the Regulations
  3. Submission includes letter of recommendation of school principal.
- To be named a Massachusetts GOLD Council of Excellence, the student council must:
  1. Meet all required standards and indicators by attaining a total of a minimum of 46 indicator points.
  2. Submit a completed application packet that is neat, organized and follows the directions outlined in the Regulations
  3. Submission includes letter of recommendation of school principal.

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2026 – 2027 MASC COUNCIL OF EXCELLENCE AWARD CRITERIA

1. **School Biographical Information (SEE ATTACHED)** **1 POINT**
   - This form is located in the MASC Council of Excellence section of the MASC Guidebook
2. **Letter of Endorsement of Student Council President** **1 POINT**
   - This letter must be on Letterhead (Student Council preferred)
3. **Letter of Endorsement of the School Principal** **1 POINT**
   - The Application will be disqualified if this letter is not included
   - This letter must be on Letterhead (School preferred)
4. **Council Philosophy & Mission Statement** **2 POINTS**
   - A statement of the development of the philosophy and/or mission statement
   - Evidence must show yearly reflection and assessment of Philosophy and Mission Statement.
   - This section should be NO MORE than ONE PAGE in length.
5. **Council Goals** **1 POINT**
   - A statement of the development of the Goals of the Student Council
   - The Goals MUST be measurable and presented in the bulleted process.
   - Goals must show evidence of yearly reflection and assessment and process of how goals were established for the year.
   - This section should be NO MORE than ONE PAGE in length.
6. **Governance (Constitution)** **1 POINT**
   - A copy of the current Student Council Constitution must be submitted
   - Evidence of yearly approval and ratification of the Student Council Constitution
7. **Governance (Membership Process)** **1 POINT**
   - A statement of the development of a Student Councils Membership
   - Evidence of yearly review of student council membership and the changes needed/warranted to facilitate and maintain active members.
   - This section should be NO MORE than ONE PAGE in length.
8. **Governance (Meetings)** **1 POINT**
   - Schools will have to submit a list of ALL Student Council Meetings for the award year from February 1, 2026 ~ February 1, 2027
   - This section should be NO MORE than ONE PAGE in length and MUST NOT include other meetings outside of general student council meetings.
9. **Governance (Agendas)** **2 POINTS**
   - Schools must submit TWO copies of agendas from Student Council meetings
   - ONE MUST be for an Executive Board Meeting and ONE MUST be for a full Student Council Meeting.
10. **Governance (Minutes)** **2 POINTS**
    - Schools must submit TWO copies of the minutes from the corresponding agendas submitted for award
    - ONE MUST be for an Executive Board Meeting and ONE MUST be for a full Student Council Meeting.
11. **Governance (Budget or Accounting Report)** **1 POINT**
    - A copy of the Treasurer's Report or Budget or Financial Statement for the award year from February 1, 2026 ~ February 1, 2027.

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12. Governance (Committee Development) **1 POINT**

- A statement of how the Student Council develops their committees. Student Council will have to state how they area managed, evaluated and maintained committees within Student Council.
- Include guidelines for operation, a list of all committees (standing and ad hoc), and a description of the method of chair selection.

13. Governance (Internal Project Evaluation) **1 POINT**

- Student Council will have to provide a sample of the evaluation tool that is used for student council projects.
- Evidence of the evaluation tool that is used by Student Council Membership/Committee Chairs to evaluate programming and projects.
- Explain how the evaluation tool is used within the assessment of the Student Council. This explanation should be NO MORE than ONE PAGE in length.

14. School Service Programs **2 POINTS**

- Student Council will need to submit evidence of TWO programs that BENEFIT THE ENTIRE SCHOOL COMMUNITY
  1. One example must show the participation of student council working with a diverse population within their school. (Special Education population, Collaborative work with other clubs or activities in their school, etc.)
  2. One example must show the participation of the entire school population (ex. Homecoming Week, Spirit Week, etc.)
  3. EACH DESCRIPTION IS ALLOWED TO BE NO MORE THAN ONE PAGE IN LENGTH.

15. Spirit and Social Activities **2 POINTS**

- Student Council will need to submit evidence of TWO programs that will IMPROVE SCHOOL SPIRIT AND CLIMATE IN THEIR OWN SCHOOL.
  1. Both examples need to show evidence of spirit activities (ex. Pep Rally, Spirit Recognitions Programs)
  2. A school should attempt to diversify their activities. Choose and event that reaches out to a certain population of students.
  3. EACH DESCRIPTION IS ALLOWED TO BE NO MORE THAN ONE PAGE IN LENGTH.

16. Community Service Programs **2 POINTS**

- Student Council will need to submit evidence of TWO programs that shows planning and implementation of community service programs in their school
  1. One example MUST show the participation of the entire school community
  2. One example MUST show the participation of the membership of the Student Council only.
  3. EACH DESCRIPTION IS ALLOWED TO BE NO MORE THAN ONE PAGE IN LENGTH.

17. Fundraising Programs **1 POINT**

- Student Council will need to submit ONE project that raises funds for student-related activities
  1. One example must be provided of a fundraising activity.
  2. EACH DESCRIPTION IS ALLOWED TO BE NO MORE THAN ONE PAGE IN LENGTH.

18. Leadership Training Programs **3 POINTS**

- Student Council will need to submit evidence of THREE projects or programs that show their planning and implementation of their leadership training programs
  1. One example will need to be an "in-house" student council (full membership) leadership program
  2. Tne example will need to be an "in-house" program that focuses on the training of the Student Council Executive Board
  3. One example will need to be a program that focuses on the professional development of the Student Council Advisor (MASC Officershop OR MASC State Conference)
  4. EACH DESCRIPTION IS ALLOWED TO BE NO MORE THAN ONE PAGE IN LENGTH.

19. Communication **1 POINT**

- Student Council will need to provide ONE piece of evidence of how they communicate with their membership and the student body as a whole. The student council membership is allowed to practice opportunities to show a variety of communication skills.
  1. One example of Student Council Communication (ex. Student Council Newsletter and/or electronic/social media communication).
  2. If using social media accounts, evidence MUST be provided in a screen shot of the media page used by the student council with examples of posts, tweets, etc.
  3. Provide an explanation how this communication is used that is NO MORE than ONE PAGE in length.

20. Civic-Based Activities **1 POINT**

- Student Council will need to submit ONE example of evidence that employs various methods that encourage students to be involved in their community through local and/or state government programming within the town/city/state and increase their awareness of good citizenry and activism
  1. One example of a civic-based activities initiated by the Student Council within the local government within the community.
  2. Examples can include: State/Town Elections, Community/State Forums, Town Meeting Volunteers, Voting Drives, Political Action Work and Student Forums in the community and working with state officials would be acceptable)
  3. EACH DESCRIPTION IS ALLOWED TO BE NO MORE THAN ONE PAGE IN LENGTH.

21. Student Voice Activities **2 POINTS**

- Student Council will need to submit ONE example of how they seek out opinions of their student body and create opportunities for input for changes within the school community that will attempt to include all students. Also, this indicator can focus on how the student council seeks student voice in ideas and programming for events within the school community. One example of an activity that provides a forum for student opinion and idea exchanges.
  1. One example of an activity/protocol/event of how the student council seeks out opinions of their student body and create opportunities for input for changes within the school community that will attempt to include all students
  2. Open Student Council Meetings would be considered for credit within this indicator. However, simply stating you have an open meeting without evidence that they are used by your greater student body will not be accepted. How do you engage non-student council members to engage in school change?
  3. EACH DESCRIPTION IS ALLOWED TO BE NO MORE THAN ONE PAGE IN LENGTH.

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22. Special Olympics ~ Service Project **3 POINTS**

- Student Council will need to submit evidence of their participation in the following Special Olympics Program offered in partnership with the MASC and Special Olympics of Massachusetts.
  1. Participation in the MASC Bocce Tournament as a part of a Unified Sports Team OR "Fans in the Stands"
  2. Participation in the Polar Plunge Program in 2026 at the State Conference in March
  3. Participation in Inclusion Programs at your school

23. Inclusive Programming ~ Student Council **1 POINT**

- This indicator is to focus on programming that Student Council does to be inclusive of groups within their school community. Provide ONE example of a program that is sponsored/co-sponsored by the Student Council that shows inclusion and acceptance as a hallmark of the work of student council.
  1. Examples include, but not limited to programming with Special Education Students, ELL Students, LGBTQ+ Students, Diversity, Equity & Inclusion work.
  2. EACH DESCRIPTION IS ALLOWED TO BE NO MORE THAN ONE PAGE IN LENGTH.

24. Transitional Activities **2 POINTS**

- Student Council will need to submit TWO pieces of evidence that shows transitional activities for incoming students into their school
  1. One example of an activity that aids in the transition or incoming students (outreach to the feeder schools)
  2. One example of an activity that is designed to welcome and engage new students to the school community (ex. Orientation Programs, Freshmen Welcome Programs, etc.)
  3. EACH DESCRIPTION IS ALLOWED TO BE NO MORE THAN ONE PAGE IN LENGTH.

25. Evaluation (Membership & Student Body Feedback) **2 POINTS**

- Student Council members will need to submit TWO forms of evidence of how effectively they evaluate their programs. (SAMPLES MUST BE PROVIDED)
  1. One example of a completed evaluation that was used by the student council membership and/or committee chairs, executive board
  2. One example of a completed evaluation that was used by the entire student body as a method of analyzing a school-wide activity.
  3. This section should be NO MORE than ONE PAGE in length for the description explaining the evidence in which you have provided.

26. Charities: **2 POINTS**

- Student Council will need to submit TWO examples of charities that they planned and implemented that raised money for a charitable cause
  1. One example will be a list of all the charitable programs done throughout the year and the amount raised for the organization or program
  2. One example will be the DESCRIPTION of ONE program planned and implemented by the student council
  3. This section should be NO MORE than ONE PAGE in length for the description explaining the evidence in which you have provided.

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27. Regional Participation **2 POINTS**

- Student Council will need to submit evidence of their participation in the following Regional Programs. Evidence must include a list of student council members that attended each conference.
  1. Regional Spring Conference
  2. Regional Fall Conference

28. MASC State Participation **3 POINTS**

- Student Council will need to submit evidence of their participation in the following MASC Programs
  1. MASC State Conference 2026
  2. MASC Officershop 2026
  3. MASC Presidents Dinner 2026

29. Workshop Development and Participation **2 POINTS**

- Student Council will need to submit evidence of the development and presentation of a workshop on the following levels:
  1. Evidence of a workshop/program presented at local student council event
  2. Regional Workshop Presentation (evidence must be provided)

30. National Participation (NASC) **2 POINTS**

- Student Council will need to submit evidence of their participation in the following National Programs
  1. Student Council National Conference - NASTUCO or VISION Conference.
  2. Evidence of Membership with the National Association of Student Councils

31. Completion of Check List and Validation Forms **1 POINT**

TOTAL POINTS ONE CAN ATTAIN **50 POINTS**

Special Note:

- The updated format might seem like a great deal of NEW stuff. However, when you look at your current programs, you may find plenty of already established programs that could be identified for each of the areas.
- Also, there will **NO REPEATING PROJECTS**. You will only be allowed to use a project ONCE.

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2025 – 2026 MASC COUNCIL OF EXCELLENCE AWARD
CHECK-LIST AND VALIDATION RUBRIC

Important Note: This form MUST be completed and signed in order to be eligible for the MASC Council of Excellence Award

MASC Indicator	Total Eligible Points~50Pts.	Advisor Initials & Point(s) Awarded	MASC Judging Committee Points Awarded & Comment
School Biographical Form	1 Point		
Letter from Council President	1 Point		
Letter from Principal	1 Point		
Council Philosophy & Mission Statement	2 Points		
Council Goals	1 Point		
Copy of Council Constitution	1 Point		
Copy of Membership Process	1 Point		
List of Council Meetings	1 Point		
Copy of two Council Agendas	2 Points		
Copy of two Council Minutes	2 Points		
Copy of Treasurer's Report	1 Point		
Copy of Committee Process	1 Point		
Copy of Project Eval. Tool	1 Point		
School Serv. Programs (2)	2 Points		
Spirit & Social Activities (2)	2 Points		
Community Service Act. (2)	2 Points		
Fundraising Activity (1)	1 Point		
Leadership Training Act. (3)	3 Points		
Copy of Communication Tool	1 Point		
Civic-Based Activity (1)	1 Point		
Student Voice Activity (2)	2 Points		
Special Olympics (3)	3 Points		
Inclusive Programming (1)	1 Point		
Transitional Activities (2)	2 Points		
Evaluation and Feedback (2)	2 Points		
Charity Programs (2)	2 Points		
Regional Participation (2)	2 Points		
MASC State Participation (3)	3 Points		
Workshop Development (2)	2 Points		
NASC Participation (2)	2 Points		
Completion & Submission of this form	1 Point		

TOTAL POINTS ACHIEVED BY COUNCIL: _____

Student Council President Signature: _____

Student Council Advisor Signature: _____

School Principal's Signature: (MANDATORY) _____

NOTE: All submissions will be read and judged by a committee. If your submission does not meet the criteria noted in the MASC Guidebook, you will not receive the achieved points for that category. Please follow the directions carefully. DO NOT REPEAT PROJECTS!

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SCHOOL BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION
INDICATOR #1

THIS FORM MUST BE TYPED

School Information:

School Name: _____

School Address: _____

School City & Zip Code: _____

School Phone: _____ Fax: _____

Advisor Information:

Advisor Name: _____

Advisor Phone or School Extension: _____

School Email: _____

Number of Years as Advisor: _____ Number of Co-Advisors: _____

Principal Information:

Principal Name: _____

Principal Phone and School Extension: _____

School Email: _____

School Demographics:

Current Number of Students in School: _____ Grades in School: _____
(ex. 9-12)

Classification (rural, suburban, urban, regionalized, private, technical) _____

Student Council Information:

Number of Active Student Council Members: _____ Number of Officers: _____

Approximate Year that the Student Council was founded: _____