



STANDARDS OF EXCELLENCE 2026 PROGRAM CRITERIA

PART ONE

The Administration of Student Council (36 points)

“The Guidelines of Responsible Interaction between Administrators and Student Council” were adopted by the Executive Committees of the New Jersey Association of Student Councils (NJASC) and the New Jersey Association of Secondary School Principals, who established the following recommendations concerning effective Administration of Student Councils. These guidelines are revised from time to time as deemed necessary by the NJASC State Officers. The evaluating council shall review your council in light of each.

A. Administration recognizes the Student Council as the official voice of the student body. (12 points)

- 1) Student initiated requests for change in policy and regulations are channeled through the Student Council.
- 2) Students are invited and encouraged to attend Faculty or Board of Education Meetings when appropriate.
- 3) The Student Council is notified of pending policy changes which affect students.
- 4) The Principal maintains an open door policy to the Student Council.

B. Faculty and Student Council work cooperatively. (9 points)

- 1) Students are included in such matters as building plans, curriculum revision, evaluation, etc.
- 2) The Faculty is encouraged to work with the Student Council.
- 3) The curriculum provides for a practical program of study and promotes the effective use of the Student Council as a voice in the school community.

C. The Student Council Advisor. (9 points)

- 1) Is chosen because he or she is trained and qualified.
- 2) Is compensated at a level commensurate with the responsibility of the position.
- 3) Is supported and encouraged to be actively involved in state (NJASC) and/or national (NASC) level activities through providing release time, transportation, etc.

D. The Student Council Constitution. (6 points)

- 1) Meeting times are within regular school hours, so that all students have the opportunity to participate.
- 2) Provides that no faculty approval is needed to attain membership in the Student Council or candidacy for Student Council office.



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PART TWO

The Student Council Organization (36 points)

“Standards for New Jersey Student Councils” were adopted by the NJASC after preparation by the New Jersey Association of Student Councils Executive Committee, approved by the NJASC Advisory Committee, and are revised from time to time as deemed necessary by the NJASC State Officers. These Standards are intended to guide local councils in self-evaluation, self-improvement, and will serve as a guide to the evaluating council.

A. Meetings (6 points)

- 1) Student Council meets at least twice a month, and holds at least one open meeting each year.
- 2) The Student Council has a definite and regular time and place for meetings.

B. Constitution (6 points)

- 1) The Student Council has a Constitution which clearly defines the purpose, privileges, responsibilities, and the areas of authority of the Student Council.
- 2) The Student Council constitution provides for democratic procedures in every respect, and the opportunity for all student and faculty opinions to be heard.

C. Leadership (6 points)

- 1) The school provides leadership training programs for the leaders of student activities such as Student Council, members and officers, committee chairpersons and members, class and club officers.
- 2) Student leaders attend area, state, and/or national conferences.

D. Reports (6 points)

- 1) The Student Council keeps complete and accurate records of all its' business.
- 2) Reports are given to the student body at the regular meetings.

E. Membership in State/National Student Council Associations (6 points)

- 1) The Student Council is affiliated with the New Jersey Association of Student Councils (NJASC), answering correspondence promptly, submitting annual membership dues/fees in a timely manner, and actively participating in programs it sponsors.
- 2) The Student Council is affiliated with NatStuCo (National Student Council, a program of the National Association of Secondary School Principals), answering correspondence promptly, submitting annual membership dues/fees in a timely manner, and actively participating in programs it sponsors.

F. Finances (6 points)

- 1) Student Council is more than primarily a fundraising organization.
- 2) Accurate records are kept of Student Council Financial Transactions.



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PART THREE

The Activities of Student Council (48 points)

The quality of a Student Council is reflected by the success of its activities. Examples of the wide variety of successful activities carried on by Student Councils throughout New Jersey can be found in publications such as the NJASC Review and in the NJASC website Resource Library, located at <https://njasc.org/resources>.

Projects should be evaluated as to their degree of success. To help the judges, each school is asked to nominate for consideration **12 PROJECTS** carried on at any time during the last FIVE school years. After registering to participate in this program, you will be sent a 12 page **PROJECTS WORKSHEET PACKET** in which you must enter information about each project you are submitting for consideration. To help you organize which projects to submit, please list below the name of each project under the category below that it best fits. At least TWO projects must be submitted from each of the categories below.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

EDUCATIONAL

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

FUNDRAISING

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

SOCIAL/SPIRIT

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

STUDENT SERVICES

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

After completing each of the 12 pages (one per project) of the Projects Worksheet Packet...

- You must **PRINT OUT** one copy of the Projects Worksheet Packet and submit it with your other materials to the evaluating council at the time of their visit.
- You must also **E-MAIL** the completed 12-page Projects Worksheet Packet as an attachment to Executive Director Lou Miller at lmiller@njasc.org by **April 15, 2026**. This will be to share your projects with other schools by adding them to the database in the "Project Showcase" section of the NJASC website.



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PART FOUR

Reflection after the Evaluation Visit (20 points)

An important aspect of Standards of Excellence that distinguishes it from any other award program sponsored by NJASC at the state level (or NatStuCo at the national level) is the visitation to another school, which provides a unique opportunity to experience another program and share ideas that can improve the Student Council programs of both the evaluator and evaluatee.

While the initial self-evaluation prior to another school visiting to evaluate your Student Council is certainly an important (and necessary) component to prepare for participation in the Standards of Excellence program, a self-reflection conducted AFTER both evaluative visitations have been completed can be just as important – and quite possibly more rewarding.

The purpose of your visit to another school should not only be to evaluate their Student Council and its' programs for consideration of this award but to also share ideas about the administration, organization, and activities of each Student Council. The intent of this discussion is to provide an opportunity for BOTH schools involved to reflect upon, and seek to improve their own, programs based on what they observed and evaluated through the Standards of Excellence program.

With this in mind, the fourth part of the evaluation is to write a **self-reflection essay** of at least 300 but no more than 1000 words that addresses each of the following:

- What did you learn in your initial self-evaluation prior to being visited by another Student Council, and how did you use it to prepare for that visit?
- When visited by another Student Council to evaluate your program, what did they share about their program that we could implement or modify to improve your program?
- When you visited another Student Council to evaluate their program, what did you observe, and what did they share that you could take back to modify or improve your own program?

This TYPED essay should be titled with **your school's name** and SCANNED/E-MAILED with your other paperwork for the Standards of Excellence program to the 2026 Executive Member in charge of Special Projects at projects26@njasc.net by the deadline indicated. He or she will read and evaluate your essay (based on content, not grammar), which will be worth up to 20 points added to the overall score for Parts I, II, and III that was submitted by the Student Council that evaluated yours.