



NEW JERSEY ASSOCIATION OF STUDENT COUNCILS

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Affiliated with the National Association of Student Councils, a program of the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP)

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Dear fellow educator:

For nearly 50 years, the New Jersey State Board of Education has included a non-voting student member to represent the voice of New Jersey's students. The New Jersey Association of Student Councils (NJASC) has facilitated this student representation on the State Board, which values the input of the students throughout the Garden State it serves. Therefore, student representation is especially important as the State Board considers such policy issues as high school graduation requirements, statewide testing and evaluating school districts. Given the direct impact that these and other issues have on students, the student voice on the State Board provides insight regarding the effects of educational policy.

Realizing New Jersey's diverse student population, the New Jersey State Board of Education and the New Jersey Association of Student Councils are extending an invitation to all high schools in Southern New Jersey to nominate a student to serve as the State Board student representative from July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027. *Please note that your school does not have to be a current member of NJASC in order for one of your students to be nominated as the student representative.*

Student representation on the State Board is selected on a rotating basis. Students from northern New Jersey are considered in odd years (such as 2025) and students from southern New Jersey are considered in even years (such as 2026). Therefore, students nominated from high schools in the following ten SOUTHERN counties will be considered for the office of State Board of Education Student Representative: **Atlantic, Burlington, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester, Mercer, Monmouth, Ocean, Salem**. Students from the eleven Northern counties not listed above will have the opportunity to become a candidate for this position one year from now.

Students nominated for State Board student representative for 2026-2027 must be a high school sophomore or junior as of October 1, 2025, and be in good academic standing with no disciplinary record. **Each high school in the counties listed above may only nominate ONE student.** If your school intends to nominate a student for this position, we recommend that you identify your nominee as soon as possible in order to give him or her adequate time to prepare.

All potential nominees must attend the **NJASC Fall Business Meeting**, which will be held on Tuesday October 7, 2025, at The College of New Jersey in Ewing Township. Registration for this meeting will be conducted online; a link will be posted on our website at <https://njasc.org>. *During the Fall Business Meeting there will be a special session, "Running for State Office", which any potential nominee MUST attend with their school advisor.* Application packets to run for State Office will be distributed at this session. The completed application packet with all required letters of recommendation must be mailed to NJASC Executive Director Lou Miller postmarked by Friday November 14, 2025. Please note that incomplete or late application packets will NOT be considered!

Again, please note that your school does not have to be a member of NJASC to nominate a candidate for this position. If a student from a non-member school is elected to the position, that school will receive a full complimentary NJASC membership from January 2026 to June 2027. We hope that during this complimentary membership period, the State Board student representative as well as other students from his or her school will discover and take advantage of the many opportunities offered by NJASC to develop and foster student leadership. Both the State Board and NJASC encourage all non-member schools to take advantage of this unique opportunity to get involved with their State Board of Education and become active in their state Student Council Association.

2025 NJASC STATE OFFICERS

President – Xenia Jahangir, Parsippany HS

Vice President – Samaira Tewatia, South Brunswick HS

Secretary – Khushi Maheshwari, West Windsor-Plainsboro HS North

Treasurer – Christina Le, Warren Hills Regional HS

State BOE Student Rep. – Kailynn DuRose, East Brunswick HS

Executive Members

Charity – Saloni Mittal, Kinnelon HS

Projects – Jules-Hanz Canlapan, Phillipsburg HS

Publications – Leilani Ortega, Hillside HS

Middle Level Rep. – Kate Ward, Brooklawn MS

Please understand that the responsibilities of this position are quite extensive. If elected, the student representative and his/her faculty advisor must attend each monthly meeting of the State Board of Education. These meetings are typically the first Wednesday of each month at the New Jersey Department of Education building, located at 100 River View Plaza in Trenton. The state board members encourage active participation from the student representative at the monthly public meeting. Therefore, adequate time prior to each meeting must be devoted to reviewing policies and programs scheduled for action or review by the State Board of Education. Additionally, after each meeting, the student representative prepares a report for the NJASC Executive Board as well as the students of New Jersey.

In addition to the State Board's monthly public meetings, the State Board student representative will also serve as a State Officer on the 2026 NJASC Executive Board. Responsibilities include monthly Executive Meetings as well as taking a leadership role in the annual Fall (October), Winter (January), and Spring (May) NJASC State Conferences. As a member of the NJASC Executive Board, the State Board student representative will also participate in both sessions of the NJASC Leadership Training Conference (LTC) at The College of New Jersey in July 2026. It is expected that the school district will fully support the State Board student representative in all of these endeavors, with release time for the obligations specified above.

Completed applications will be reviewed by the current NJASC Executive Board, with each candidate to be interviewed during the NJASC Executive Board meeting at South Brunswick High School on Wednesday December 10, 2025 (snow date Friday December 12). All applications will be held in the strictest of confidence and reviewed based on the aforementioned criteria. *If in the view of the NJASC Executive Board a candidate may not best fit the State Board student representative position but shows great potential to become a State Officer, he or she may be asked to become a candidate for a different position.* If this happens and the candidate in question is from a non-member school, the school would be asked to join NJASC at that time. As stated above, non-member schools that have candidates slated for the State Board student representative position will not be required to join NJASC but will be given a complimentary full membership for the remainder of 2025-2026 and for the entire 2026-2027 school year if their candidate is elected.

All candidates slated for the position of student representative to the State Board of Education will give their campaign speech at the NJASC Winter Convention at The College of New Jersey in January 2026. Student Council Presidents in attendance from throughout the state will then elect the student representative, as well as all other 2025 NJASC State Officers. The election results will be announced that afternoon and the successful candidate will work together with the current State Board Student Representative, Nilanjana Ghosh of West Windsor-Plainsboro High School North, to facilitate a smooth transition before becoming the official Student Representative to the State Board of Education on July 1, 2026.

We strongly encourage you to nominate a student for this important position. In order to be considered for this position, a nominee and his or her advisor MUST be available to participate in the entire selection process. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact NJASC Executive Directors Lou Miller at lmiller@njasc.net and Alex Mazella at amazella@njasc.net. Thank you for supporting student leadership in your school and throughout the Garden State.

Sincerely,



Lou Miller



Alex Mazella

Executive Directors, New Jersey Association of Student Councils