

WHY BE PART OF THE IAJHSC?



IAJHSC
is the only junior high student council
organization in the country!

Founded in 1937, the Illinois Association of Junior High Student Councils (IAJHSC) knows what it takes to be a leader. It's about a relentless drive to transform schools and communities for the better, but no leader achieves greatness alone. That's where the IAJHSC steps in. We empower student leaders and their advisors with interactive training, invaluable resources, and a vibrant network of connections to amplify their impact. Together, we're shaping the future!

WHAT'S IN IT FOR STUDENTS?

When strong student activities are in place, achievement naturally follows. Research from the Alliance for Student Activities shows that junior high students involved in at least one organized school activity are more likely to excel academically, achieve higher test scores, and set a foundation for future success. They are also less likely to engage in drug use, abuse alcohol, or drop out later on in their academic careers. Student activities are vital for keeping students engaged in their school environment.

Why focus on student council specifically? College admissions officers and future employers look beyond membership—they want to see impact. Junior high student council members have the opportunity to develop their voices and take ownership of their roles, actively engaging with others and making a difference in their schools. They plan and execute projects, create positive change, and build skills that prepare them for success in high school, college, and beyond.

Through the IAJHSC, junior high student leaders connect with peers who share their passion for making a difference. The IAJHSC provides students with the training, support, and resources they need to lead effectively, laying the groundwork for a lifetime of leadership.

WHAT'S IN IT FOR ADVISORS?

No one can succeed in a classroom without proper training and support, and the same holds true for advisors. Knowledge, concepts, learned skills, and effective activities are essential for being a strong advisor. The IAJHSC offers the necessary training for any advisor and takes pride in providing a robust support network across the state. We offer resources, experiences, networking opportunities, mentoring, and friendships to help you better serve your students and school while also taking care of yourself. Through our state association and local networks, we are here to support you every step of the way.

WHAT'S IN IT FOR ADMINISTRATORS?

We all share the same goals: we want our students to be connected, happy, and successful. We want our staff to feel the same way, and we strive for positive recognition of our achievements. Your student council advisor should be your partners in this effort. When student voices are encouraged and heard, and when everyone works toward common goals with a sense of ownership in the school, success is much more likely to follow. This prepares students to be strong civic participants throughout their lives. When advisors are educated and supported, they are more likely to remain in their roles. Many advisors say that their work with student council is what keeps them passionate about teaching and connected to the classroom.

WHAT'S IN IT FOR SCHOOLS?

A school with a connected and engaged student body that takes ownership in the school is a stronger school. Similarly, a school where staff members feel connected and invested is more robust. When advisors know that they and their students are making a difference and feel supported, the likelihood of reducing advisor and teacher turnover increases. A student-led council, trained and active throughout the year, will positively impact school culture and climate. Trained and supported student leaders working in partnership with advisors and administrators create a school environment where students and staff want to be.

