

## Student Councillor 101

The Students' Council in each school is a representative structure, comprising of students who have been democratically elected by their class to advocate on their behalf, thus working in partnership with the school administration, teachers, parents and all other stakeholders to ensure the development and sustenance of a supportive learning environment.

### Students' Council are expected to:

- Listen to students and represent student views.
- Be a forum for addressing student concerns in a diplomatic way.
- Be a consultative body. Students should be consulted prior to the implementation of new school policies for example.
- Provide the school administration with information, and or alerting the school administration to student concerns of which they might not be aware and also provide the school administration with ideas and solutions to problems that students may have.
- Act as a peer support group. It can provide support on a confidential basis for students with problems, e.g. -personal, social or teacher/student relationships.
- Create a positive school atmosphere by providing students with a sense of ownership of their school.
- Improve school facilities through hosting school development projects
- Improve the learning environment by achieving a good school environment suitable for all staff and pupils to work to their maximum ability.
- Raise students' awareness of 'bigger' issues. A students' council can raise students' awareness of social issues, such as poverty, the environment, health and peer pressure.

## WHY STUDENT COUNCILS?

Students' councils represent the only youth-led organizations in Jamaica that are mandated by law.

The Education Act (1980) outlines: "Every public educational institution shall have a student council which shall consist of elected representatives of students with at least one staff advisor being elected by the students.

*Through the student council at the secondary and tertiary levels the students shall have the right to-*

- democratically elect their own representatives;
- have representation on the Board of the institution;
- meet with the principal, and staff or both, on any matter affecting students' interest: and
- hold regular meetings to conduct business on their behalf, but with due regard to the smooth functioning of the institution "

(Education Regulations [1980], Section 32:1-2)

*Follow our hashtags on FB, IG, Twitter & Youtube*

*#nsscja #nssconthemove*

### Contact us:

c/o 4-6 Trafalgar Road, Kingston 5  
Tel: 978-7881 ext 5116  
Website: [www.nsscja.org](http://www.nsscja.org)  
Email: [nsscja@gmail.com](mailto:nsscja@gmail.com)  
Facebook: [nsscja](https://www.facebook.com/nsscja)  
Twitter: [@nssc\\_ja](https://twitter.com/nssc_ja)



## NATIONAL SECONDARY STUDENTS' COUNCIL

## Local Council 101



**RESPONSIBLE STUDENTS  
MAKE THE DIFFERENCE**



## About the NSSC

**T**he National Secondary Students' Council (NSSC) is the umbrella organization for all students' council across Jamaica. It is structured to give students the chance to voice their opinion at the highest level, on matters that affect them.

The NSSC was established in 1975, through a policy brought before government in 1973. This policy came as a response to the growing demand for effective student representation and the need for student's involvement in the decision making process of schools at all levels. This was given legal standing through the Education Act of 1980, which stated that:

*"Every public education institution shall have a students' council, which shall consist of elected representatives of students with at least one staff advisor, elected by students". Some of NSSC objectives are as followed:*

The National Secondary Students' Council has evolved over the years to become an institution that advocates strongly on behalf of students of Jamaican secondary schools.

The NSSC continues its representation of Jamaica's students with the guiding philosophy, **"responsible students make the difference."**



## Responsible students make the difference.....

### STRUCTURE OF NSSC

#### Structure of National Council

The NSSC National Executive consists of the following persons:

- President
- General Secretary
- Treasurer
- Public Relations Officer
- Regional Executive Members:
  - Six (6) Vice Presidents
  - Six (6) Asst. Vice—Presidents
  - Six (6) Secretaries/ P.R.O.s

#### Local Council :

The Local Council is that individual Students' Council existing and operating in any particular school. Representation to Local Council is based on democratic election of class representatives.

#### The Regional Council:

The Regional Councils are groups of local councils in a particular geographical areas. The major function of the regional council is to deal with those problems which cannot be dealt with at the local level. At a regional level, students can address issues which affect more than one school. Each school is expected to send representatives to the regional meetings, which are hosted monthly.



### Benefits of Students' Council

Consultations with students' councillors, students' council staff advisors and school administrators locally, in addition to research internationally, has identified benefits to having a students' council in an institution.

These benefits include:

- positive school atmosphere;
- caring school environment, which is supportive and inclusive;
- a vehicle for student participation;
- beneficial impact on issues such as discipline, bullying and staff-student relations;
- educational opportunities for students;
- provides an interactive learning environment;
- students can develop communication and leadership skills, responsibility and

## #Student Advocates

