

The Student Voice Idea



M E N U !

HIGH EFFORT IDEAS

STUDENT-LED CONFERENCES

The students are present & have authority to make important decisions about the conference. An adult supporter will help facilitate the planning discussions with the students. Students present their ideas & shape the conference agenda. The conference is focused on what students believe the attendees need to know.

YOUTH ADVISORY BOARDS

Youth Advisory Boards are similar to student councils; however, the participants are from a specific subpopulation (i.e. homeless students, foster youth, probation youth, etc.). YABs communicate with administrators & make formal recommendations for change based on their own lived experiences.

STUDENT COUNCIL

Create a student council, but make sure that students from all diverse groups are included, as they are often excluded from student councils. Student councils can work with administrators to assess school programs & make recommendations for change. Student council can help teach students about democratic processes; presidents & vice president positions can be held by students on the council.

VOTING STUDENT REP. ON SCHOOL BOARD

The president/chair of a student council/ YAB can serve as a voting student representative on a school board. They can take the feedback from the council/board & provide that to the school board members. It is important that the student rep. has voting privileges, so they are given the same shared authority as other board members.

NOTE: This is not an exhaustive list of all student voice initiatives that can be implemented at school sites/districts. This is just a small sample of possible student voice projects.

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HIRE A STUDENT VOICE COORDINATOR

Create a permanent, paid "Student Voice Coordinator" staff position for your district. Hire an individual who will oversee the development, implementation & evaluation of student voice initiatives on school campuses.

YOUTH-LED PODCASTS

Podcasts, directed & hosted by youth, are a way to get youths' voices heard by a diverse audience. Podcast equipment must be purchased & media training must be provided to students. The podcast executive producer should be an adult supporter.

STUDENTS AS CLASSROOM AUDITORS

Selected students (from diverse groups) visit different classrooms while teaching is occurring. They use evaluation forms to score the teacher's performance and student engagement in the classroom. These evaluation sheets are then discussed with administration & teachers to improve their classroom approaches and teaching practices.

STUDENTS HIRING EDUCATORS

Selected students (from diverse groups) sit on interview panels when educators are hired to a school site or a district. Students ask the interviewees questions that matter to them as students. (For example, they may ask, "How do you represent student voice in the classroom?") Students then provide their insight to the rest of the interview panel & help determine which educators should be hired.

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