

STAFF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SESSIONS

YEAR 1

Amplifying Student Voice & Aspirations

Session 1: Introduction to Student Voice

What is student voice? Why does voice matter? Understanding the complexity and definition of voice is essential for implementing strategies that amplify student voice. Participants in this session will learn the definition of voice, explore the difference between noise and voice, examine instructional strategies that foster voice, and begin to develop concrete action plans that will lay a foundation for the Student Voice & Aspirations learning journey.

Session 2: The Aspirations Profile

In schools, we often challenge our students to dream. Dream bigger! Yet simply dreaming is not enough. Aspirations is defined as the ability to dream and set goals for the future while being inspired in the present to reach those dreams. We will examine strategies for supporting students who are in a state of Hibernation, Imagination, and Perspiration, with the goal of helping all students achieve their aspirations. Participants will consider how to attain a healthy balance of dreaming and doing, and will learn how to help students realize that they must use their voices to take action in order to achieve their aspirations in the present and in the future.

Session 3: The Voice Process: Listen, Learn, and Lead

The Voice Process will be introduced as a model for fully embracing student voice as a way of being in schools. Participants will continue their journeys to embrace and implement a common definition of student voice and determine how to support all students in reaching their aspirations. The Voice Process and accompanying strategies will challenge educators to consider whether they truly listen to, learn from, and lead with students.

Session 4: Voice & Vision: Using Data to Guide Implementation of the Aspirations Framework

Are schools truly involving the voices of students? This session is designed to deepen participants' understanding of the Aspirations Framework through student voice data. Participants will learn how to effectively use student voice data to continually drive decision-making and measure the effectiveness of implementation efforts. Building-level and classroom-level student voice tools will be presented, along with strategies for analyzing and acting upon data in partnership with students.

YEAR 2

Implementing the Aspirations Framework Across Disciplines

Session 1: Using Voice to Enhance Self-Worth and Learning

With a shared understanding of student voice, we will continue the journey to establish practices in schools that allow student voice to thrive. This session focuses on the conditions necessary to enhance Self-Worth in schools. When students have a voice in school, they are 3x more likely to experience Self-Worth. And when students experience Self-Worth, they are 2x more likely to be academically motivated. In order to support students in taking more responsibility for their own learning and enhance Self-Worth, participants will consider how to embed the Conditions of Belonging, Heroes, and Sense of Accomplishment into their classrooms and schools.

Session 2: Engagement: Cultivating Environments Where Students Thrive

True Engagement takes root when students are deeply involved in the learning process, showing enthusiasm and a desire to learn new things, as well as a willingness to take positive, healthy steps toward the future. When students have a voice, they are 5x more likely to be engaged in school. And when students are engaged, they are 5x more likely to be academically motivated. This session focuses on the Conditions of Fun & Excitement, Curiosity & Creativity, and Spirit of Adventure, all of which lead to maximum engagement for students and teachers.

Session 3: Developing Purpose: Letting the Leaders in Students Emerge

It is not only important for students to have Self-Worth and be engaged in the learning process, but it is also important to develop a strong sense of Purpose. When students have a voice, they are 5x more likely to have Purpose in school. And when students have Purpose, they are 7x more likely to be academically motivated. This session focuses on strategies that foster Leadership & Responsibility and the Confidence to Take Action, which ultimately help students identify their purpose in life and learning.

Session 4: Parents & Community: Including all Stakeholders in your School Voice Journey

Student voice as a way of being in schools is wonderful, yet it should not stop there. Educators need to take action to support parents and community members in school efforts to amplify Student Voice & Aspirations. Participants will discuss the challenges and benefits of parent and community involvement, and will leave with strategies and tools designed to engage all stakeholders in the student voice journey.

YEAR 3

Cultivating Systems that Support Student Voice & Aspirations

In order to maximize growth and sustainability of student voice, educators must approach implementation through a systems-thinking lens. In Year 3 sessions, participants will delve into theory and actions for deep implementation of the Aspirations Framework across disciplines and within all aspects of the school system. This is a customized process for each individual school. Teams will engage in self-assessment of their student voice progress to date, determine processes and policies that will facilitate continued growth, and consider what will be needed to sustain that growth. Throughout the year, teams will gather evidence of progress and prepare to share that evidence with others.