

MY
VOICE

student voice

My Voice National Student Report

2013 STUDENT SUMMARY

PEARSON
FOUNDATION



What our students are telling us

Student voice across the U.S.

56,877 Students • 200 Schools • Grades 6-12

The My Voice National Student Report 2013 is based on results of the My Voice Student Survey, facilitated by the Quaglia Institute of Student Aspirations (QISA) and Pearson Foundation to measure students' perceptions of school. The survey yields crucial data related to self worth, engagement and purpose – all vital to fostering student aspirations.



My voice matters

... to me



Through most of my Freshman and Sophomore years, I did not have close relationships with any of my teachers. At the end of 10th grade, I had serious chest surgery over final exams, so I had to talk to my teachers about moving up tests and papers to accommodate the surgery. I was pleasantly surprised when my teachers were very understanding and accommodated

my situation. Not only did they allow me to take my finals early, but they were genuinely concerned about me. The teachers' concern, and the concern of my friends – many of whom checked up on me during the following weeks – showed me how much they all genuinely cared for me. Having teachers and friends who are concerned about me, and having teachers who challenge me and reinforce me when I perform to the best of my ability, helps me believe in myself.

Also, by grading fairly, giving constructive criticism, and encouraging me to see my full potential, my teachers have grown my feelings of self worth more than anything else in my school environment. They set high standards, and I work hard to meet the challenges. When I apply myself, they recognize my hard work and reward it.

Daniel Alme, Billings West High School, Billings, Montana



Help me believe in myself.



Teachers make an effort to get to know me

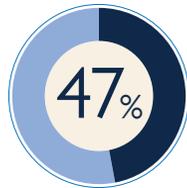


Students respect each other



I put forth my best effort at school

Help me be more engaged at school.



Teachers make school an exciting place to learn



Students are supportive of each other



I enjoy learning new things

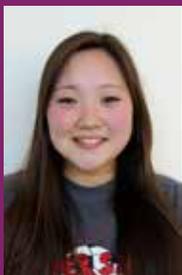


Some of the factors that help me be engaged at school are the teachers and their classes. Without the teachers making lesson plans that are fun and engaging class would be boring and dry. Another factor that helps me remain engaged at school is the material that we cover. For

example, we offer a class at my high school where we learn about radio and telecommunications. This class is called Telecom and is one of the highlights of my day.

Another factor is the benefit of receiving good grades. My teachers and administrators praise students for their outstanding academic achievements, this helps give the extra push to be able to stay engaged and enjoy school.

Alex Thompson, Harding High School, Marion, Ohio



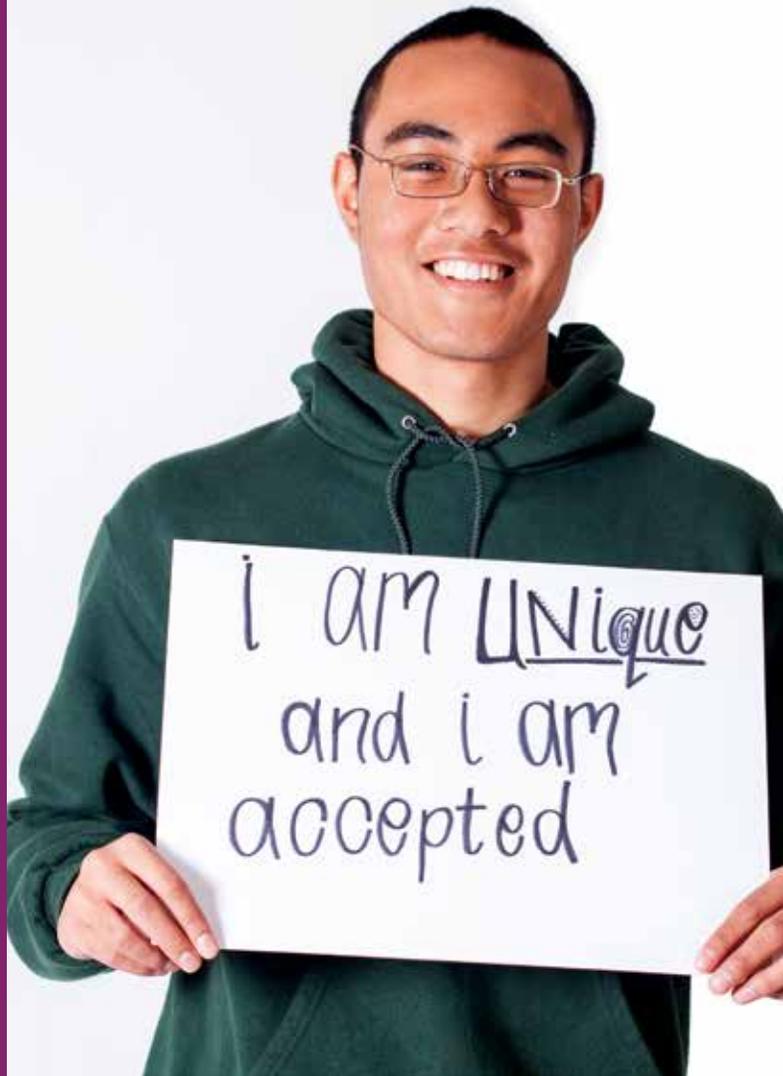
Leadership: the position or function of a leader, a person who guides or directs a group. This is how Dictionary.com defines leadership.

What the dictionary fails to mention is that leadership is also a safety net that gives anyone – no matter what age or size – a strong sense of

purpose. At Woodside High School, my leadership class is one element in the school atmosphere that really helped me develop a strong sense of purpose. I was able to be more involved within the school and feel more important and needed. From planning Winter Formal to decorating football games, leadership helps me gain the feeling of purpose.

Our monthly Aspirations meetings also strengthen my sense of purpose. We plan days that surround the 8 Conditions, such as Belonging and Sense of Accomplishment, in an effort to affect the whole school in positive ways. These are just a few elements within my school that help give me a strong sense of purpose – there are many more.

Jamie Han, Woodside High School, Woodside, California



Help me develop a strong sense of purpose.



Teachers are willing to learn from students



Other students see me as a leader



I know the kind of person I want to become

What did we learn?

What happens at school impacts academic motivation



do not feel a sense of self-worth at school



do not feel engaged in their learning



do not see the connection between school and their futures



do not feel supported by their teachers



do not feel supported by their peers

Our findings revealed some troubling trends. We can start by tackling these challenges today.

“Bullying is a problem in school”



6th Grade



12th Grade

How can we increase efforts to curtail bullying in the middle school years?

“School is boring”



6th Grade



12th Grade

Student engagement plummets from middle school to high school. Can we reverse this trend?



There are many things that happen in my school that affect the academic motivation for the students. Most of the things that happen in my school actually weaken academic motivation. A lot of students feel that the teachers at my school aren't trying to help them when they punish them for doing wrong. I feel like discipline is very necessary and that it will help our school. But many students take the discipline as disrespect, when actually the teachers are trying to help the students become better people.

When students keep getting in trouble, they put less effort into school work and seem not to care anymore. This happens a lot at my school and I witness it almost every day. Then their academic motivation weakens and they fail classes and eventually drop out. The dropout rate at my school is very high, and I really want to fix that. I want to find a way to get students more academically motivated and get them to understand that education is here to HELP us learn and achieve our goals.

Raven Grant, Conway High School, Conway, South Carolina



Listen to our current generation of learners.

Get involved

Our mission

- Help measure the perceptions of everyone at school
- Elevate the impact of student voice
- Foster the changes that are vital for students to realize academic, social and personal success

Find out more about My Voice: www.myvoice.pearsonfoundation.org

Find out more about QISA: www.qisa.org



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