

Student Aspirations

My Voice National Student Report

The 2011 *My Voice*™ National Student Report documents why students' voices matter. Developed as the result of research and inquiry into school systems throughout the United States, the *My Voice* Survey has been taken by more than half a million students. The Pearson Foundation and the Quaglia Institute for Student Aspirations created *My Voice* so that all educators can improve today's teaching and learning environments by listening to students and understanding how to support their aspirations.

Summary of Results

The 2011 *My Voice* National Student Report summary of results highlights major conclusions from this internationally recognized survey. These results measuring student perceptions in schools – from small rural schools to large urban districts – can be used to create a student-centered environment where children feel safe, valued and supported.



1. Students have a positive outlook about themselves and their potential.

- ▶ Almost all students (93%) believe they can be successful in school
- Most students (80%) enjoy learning new things
- Many students (87%) want to do their best in school



2. Many students feel undervalued in – and not all are proud of – their schools.

- ▶ More than half of students (55%) say they are proud of their school
- Less than half of students (47%) feel like valued members of their school community
- Less than half of students (47%) believe teachers care if they are absent from school

Student Aspirations – My Voice National Student Report Summary of Results



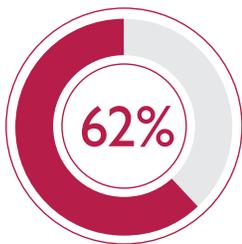
3. Students want to do well in school, most say they are putting forth their best effort, yet less than half see the relevance of what they are learning in their classes.

- ▶ • Almost all students (90%) say getting good grades is important to them
- Most students (75%) say they put forth their best effort at school
- Less than half (43%) report their classes help them understand what is happening in their everyday lives



4. Students have mixed perceptions about how supportive their school is.

- ▶ • 42% say that students are supportive of each other
- 53% feel that teachers care about them as an individual
- 50% believe teachers are willing to learn from students
- ▶ • 74% have a teacher who is a positive role model



5. Many students are inspired by school, but fewer are engaged in their school experience.

- ▶ • Nearly half of students (46%) say that school is boring
- Half of students (51%) enjoy being at school
- ▶ • Six out of ten students (62%) agree that school inspires them to learn

My Voice results can engage all members of the school community in a dialogue about their school's culture. Through asking students about school, analyzing their responses, and acting on them, *My Voice* aims to help students reach their fullest potential.

My Voice analyzes whether students feel a sense of self-worth, engagement, and purpose. The survey asks both about perceptions students have of themselves as well as their learning environment. The 2011 *My Voice* National Student Report reveals both encouragement and challenges for schools today. By listening to, learning from, and responding to students' voices, educators can create learning environments that will allow all students to reach their fullest potential.

To access the full *My Voice* National Student Report and additional information about how *My Voice* is being used to frame new learning settings, go to myvoice.pearsonfoundation.org.