

STUDENT PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SESSIONS

Session 1: Introduction to Student Voice

Why doesn't anyone listen to my ideas? Too often, students believe student voice is merely sharing one's ideas. This session will help students discover myriad ways to have their voices heard. More importantly, it will push students to understand the complexity and definition of voice, as well as their responsibility for turning voice into action. Throughout this session, students will begin to see how they can use their voices to enact positive change. The session will culminate with students preparing to present to peers and teachers about the importance of student voice.

Session 2: The Voice Process: Listen, Learn, and Lead

Everyone knows how to listen, right? On the surface, this is a seemingly easy skill. Yet listening intently is more involved, and it is only one part of the Voice Process. In this session, students will analyze each component of the Voice Process and debunk any preconceived notions that voice is simply about taking charge and being loud. Students will be challenged to participate in a diverse range of activities to deepen their understanding of the Voice Process and strengthen their ability to apply what they learn in their schools. Participating students will determine actions they can take to help all students at their school understand the Voice Process and their role in it.

Session 3: Preparing to Partner

Are you ready to make a difference? Voice is not a solo adventure. To be impactful, the Voice Process requires a genuine partnership. In this session, students will learn how to partner *with* others and be an effective partner *to* others, deepening their understanding of how to effectively put their voices into action. Students will engage in various scenarios to practice the foundational skills needed to amplify not only their own voices, but the voices of those around them. Students will leave the session prepared to work with all stakeholders in their school community.

Session 4: Voice as a Way of Being

So, you want to change your school? Let's get started! In this session, students will make decisions about actions that can lead to school-wide change. Students will need to roll their sleeves up and be ready for hard work that leads to real change in their school. Utilizing self-assessments and future-planning tools, students will identify what they can do to foster a culture in which all students and stakeholders derive meaningful benefits. Students will develop an action plan with the goal of helping voice become a way of being in their school; delivering their ideas to staff, school leaders, and school boards.

Institute staff members are also available to facilitate student focus groups, lead student voice data analysis activities, work with student leadership groups, and provide a variety of other services directly to students.