Supporting Student Voice

Score your school on a scale of 1 (not done well or at all) to 5 (highly effective) in regard to the following components of each system. Upon completion, discuss what evidence supports your scores.

Visibility & Communication

- [ ] It is apparent on our website that our school values student voice.
- [ ] Throughout our school building, there is evidence of student voice.
- [ ] Students' self-assessment is included on report cards.
- [ ] All stakeholders know the school's goals related to student voice.
- [ ] Students have input into the school's student management/discipline policy.
- [ ] Students accept responsibility for not only what is said but also what needs to be done.

Student Leadership & Involvement

- [ ] Leadership roles are held by a diverse group of students.
- [ ] A variety of informal leadership opportunities exist at our school.
- [ ] We have building and classroom practices in place to listen, learn and lead with students.
- [ ] Leadership skills are intentionally taught and practiced at each grade level.
- [ ] Students have opportunities to work with adults on school-wide decisions.
- [ ] Students take action for the good of the whole.

Teacher Learning

- [ ] Teacher voice is valued in our school.
- [ ] We have procedures in place for new teachers to learn about Student Voice & Aspirations (SVA).
- [ ] Student Voice & Aspirations is incorporated into teacher observations.
- [ ] We have ongoing dialogue and professional learning opportunities related to SVA.
- [ ] Teachers understand the value of student voice for meaningful learning.
- [ ] Teachers are willing to learn from students.

Student Learning

☐ Teachers discuss and utilize voice and aspirations instructional strategies.

☐ Students are involved as active participants in their own learning.

☐ Teacher voice and student voice work together to improve the learning process for everyone.

☐ Students assess their learning.

☐ Student surveys and focus groups are regularly used to improve teaching and learning.

☐ Students share their opinions and ideas during class discussions.

·····Enhancing Voice·····

1. What practices and policies exist in our school that hinder student voice? How can students and staff improve these practices?

2. How can we provide more opportunities for student voice and involvement in specific existing systems within our school?

3. What understanding do our parents and community members have regarding the role of student voice in learning? How can we expand their understanding?

4. What staff resistance is there to increasing student voice? Why? How can colleagues and administrators reduce the resistance and alleviate concerns about the change initiative?