

What is student voice?

This question seems simple, yet educators and policymakers often have very different understandings of the concept of student voice. Relying on almost 40 years of research and fieldwork, the Quaglia Institute's experience shows that it is crucial to have a clear definition of voice that is meaningful and understandable. We see authentic student voice as having three components that work hand in hand:

1. Sharing thoughts and ideas in an environment underpinned by trust and respect;
2. Offering realistic suggestions for the good of the whole; and,
3. Accepting responsibility for not only what is said but also what needs to be done.

With this common understanding, educators can purposefully integrate student voice into learning and teaching. Visit [School Voice Definition](#) for a more detailed explanation.

Why does student voice matter?

When students have a voice, they have more meaningful learning experiences. Data from students who took the Quaglia Student Voice survey between 2018 and 2023 shows that when students believe they have a voice they are:

- 32% more likely to report having Self-Worth.
- 38% more likely to report Engagement.
- 43% more likely to report having Purpose.
- 78% more likely to report having Teacher Support.

When the potential of voice is fully realized, schools look and feel different. Cooperation replaces competition and conflict, collaboration replaces isolation, and confidence replaces insecurity. Schools that practice student voice have fewer discipline problems, better attendance, more engaged students and teachers, and greater self-worth and respect within the educational community. Visit [Quaglia School Voice Reports](#) to read more about survey data.

How can I support student voice in the classroom?

Classrooms are a natural venue for providing student voice opportunities in learning. A student voice centered classroom increases students' responsibility for their learning and well-being. There are a number of specific strategies that can be used to support student voice at all grade levels. Visit [Quaglia Voice Instructional Strategies](#) to learn more about supporting student voice in your classroom.

To learn more about voice, we encourage you to explore the free resources and publications available at the [Quaglia Institute's](#) website.