

## Student Voice

There are three parts to student voice:

1. Feeling comfortable sharing your ideas in a safe space
2. Sharing realistic ideas that help everyone
3. Being responsible and taking action

Student voice is a way for *you* to be actively involved in your classroom and school. When you share your ideas and work toward making school better for everyone, you are making a difference! Keep in mind that you do not have to be loud to share your ideas. You just have to be willing to let others know what you are thinking.

### Let's Explore Student Voice!

#### Part 1: BE COMFORTABLE SHARING IDEAS

Sometimes our ideas are productive and meaningful. That is called VOICE. Other times our ideas are more about complaining, and that is called NOISE. See how each NOISE thought below was turned into VOICE.



**NOISE**



**VOICE**

School is boring.



I have lots of ideas about how students can participate in class.

Other students are mean.



I wonder what my friends and I can do to be nicer to all students.

I hate homework.



I am going to ask a friend for help with my homework so that I don't get so frustrated.

Our playground rules aren't fair.



I have an idea to make playground rules better.

We should be able to use cell phones in class.



I am going to show my teachers a few learning apps I use at home on my cell phone.

YOUR TURN... Work with a partner to think of three different noise examples and decide how they can be turned into voice.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

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## Part 2: SHARE REALISTIC IDEAS THAT HELP EVERYONE

Keisha wants to make her school a better place for all students and brainstormed the ideas below. Circle the ideas you think are realistic.

Let students sleep in class

Ask students to help the principal plan school-wide events

Have students share their ideas with teachers

Never have homework

Have a fast food restaurant instead of a cafeteria

Close school two hours earlier every day

Let students help create recess rules

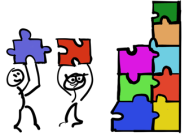
Students only work with their friends

Have student ambassadors to welcome new students

Create an after school homework club

Work with a partner to think of three *realistic* ideas to make your school a better place:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.



What does it mean when an idea “helps everyone”?

Create a new emoji that represents helping everyone:



### Part 3: BE RESPONSIBLE AND TAKE ACTION - GET IT DONE!

As a class, share your realistic ideas from Part 2. Select one to work on together and create a plan to “Get It Done.” Your plan must include how you are going to work with your teacher and/or another adult at school.

What is the idea/goal?

Why is the idea/goal important?

How does the idea/goal help everyone?

How can your teacher and/or another adult at school help make this plan a success?

What is the biggest challenge to making the idea/goal happen?

What will it look like when the idea/goal is achieved?