STUDENTS AS EDUCATION IMPROVEMENT PARTNERS

Webinar for University of KY's Department of Education Leadership Studies

November 8, 2019

STUDENT VOICE TEAM
PRICHARD COMMITTEE FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE
IN THIS SESSION, WE WILL...

- Define student voice along a continuum of impact
- Examine meaningful student voice in action
- Consider strategies to integrate meaningful student voice in your existing sphere of influence
WHO WE ARE

- 100 plus members
- Statewide
- Ages 12-22
- Self-selected
WHAT WE DO

- Amplify and elevate student voice
- Support students as partners to improve Kentucky schools
- Extend the reach of the Prichard Committee
HOW WE COLLECT STUDENT VOICE

A Student Voice Team member interviews students in a small roundtable discussion.
HOW WE AMPLIFY & ELEVATE STUDENT VOICE

Students plead for safety tax

Herald-Leader

Wednesday August 8, 2018 Kentucky.com

Students plea for safety tax

Shea

Herald-Leader

Wednesday August 8, 2018 Kentucky.com

Herald-Leader

Wednesday August 8, 2018 Kentucky.com

Ready or Not: Stories from Behind the Stat

High school and college members of the Pichard Committee Student Voice Team will share what they learned from young people across Kentucky about the challenges they are facing, and the postsecondary transition process. They share the case for policymakers to put quantitative data into context and consider both the head and the heart in education decisions.

The Pichard Committee Student Voice Team (SVT) supports students as researchers, advocates, and policy partners in the Pichard Committee efforts to support Kentucky schools. The SVT was convened and launched by a small group of high school students in 2013 and now consists of over 100 self-selected Kentucky youth from middle school through college.

The Student Voice Team came to national prominence in 2015 when they advocated for the inclusion of all students on superintendent screening committees and again in 2016 when their Powerball Petition call to the reionation of scholarship money from the state lottery for over eight thousand low-income students.

The team derives significant success from working at the grassroots level. In addition to creating and facilitating blog groups, they have developed a Pichard Conference for students to share research with state legislators and policymakers, and a summer research opportunity for middle school students in the region.

EVCY STUDIO

HAS A STORY

#StudentsOfKentucky
WHAT IS STUDENT VOICE ANYWAY?

· Supporting students as active partners in our own learning and school decision-making.
WHAT IS MEANINGFUL STUDENT VOICE?

- Expression, Consultation
- Participation
- Partnership
- Activism
- Leadership
EXPRESSION

- Volunteering Opinions
- Creating Art
- Protesting
CONSULTATION

• Providing Solicited Feedback
• Completing a Survey
PRESENCE AND PARTICIPATION

• Attending meetings where real decisions are made

• Inclusion when issues are framed and actions planned
• Formal Role in Decision Making

• Expected Student Involvement

• Adults Prepared to Work with Youth Partners
ACTIVISM AND LEADERSHIP

• Identifying Problems
• Educating for Change
• Co-Planning, Making Decisions
• Co-Guiding Group Processes and Activities
WHAT IS EXTRA MEANINGFUL STUDENT VOICE?
ANOTHER WAY TO LOOK AT IT
MEANINGFUL STUDENT VOICE IN ACTION
THE SECRET INGREDIENTS

- Students as Partners
- Equitable Student Voice
- Stories plus Statistics
- Students Driving Narrative
RALLY TO ADD STUDENTS TO SUPT. SCREENING COMMITTEES

Capitol Steps, Frankfort, Kentucky, March 2015
POWERBALL PROMISE CAMPAIGN

House Education Committee, March 2016
RELEASE OF READY OR NOT

Frankfort History Center, October 2018
STUDENT-LED SCHOOL CLIMATE AUDITS

Franklin Simpson High School
HOW YOU CAN DO IT TOO

Tips for integrating meaningful student voice into existing programs and partnerships
START SMALL; DREAM BIG.
ENCOURAGE DESIGN-THINKING.

Student Voice Team members convene for a strategy session.
PAY ATTENTION TO EQUITY.

Refugees share challenges navigating their Louisville high school with the Student Voice Team.
THINK INTERGENERATIONALLY.

Student Voice Team members convene research experts for advice on how to design student-led education research studies.
Students from across Kentucky participate in a Student Voice Team general meeting.
NORMALIZE THIS.

Nasim shares the Student Voice Team’s school climate research with the Kentucky Association of Psychology in Schools (November 2018)
AND THIS.

Lily shares stories of student struggles with college affordability at the Budget Review Subcommittee on Postsecondary Education, February 2019