



Student Voice Rubric

17 ELEMENTS	6 AREAS					
	School Governance	Classroom Culture	Discipline & Problem Solving	Advisement	Student Activities	Professional Development
1.) Relationship Development			x	x		
2.) Communication and Culture of Listening	x	x	x			
3.) Supportive Staff			x	x	x	x
4.) Collaboration	x	x	x		x	
5.) Encouraging Participation		x		x	x	
6.) Responsive: Student Voice Leads to Action	x					
7.) Contributing to Decisions	x					x
8.) Peer Support Opportunities				x		
9.) Appealing to Students' Lives and Interests				x		
10.) Student Government with True Power	x				x	
11.) Real Leadership Roles	x					
12.) Community-Building			x			
13.) Variety and Choice		x			x	x
14.) Authentic Tasks and Real-World Experiences		x			x	x
15.) Exploring Self, Identity, and Goals			x			
16.) Fostering Self-Advocacy				x		x
17.) Constructivist Learning		x				x

AREAS are the most important *places* where student voice can and should be found.

ELEMENTS are the most important *qualities* of student voice, which can be found in *all* areas.

Notes:

- For the sake of depth over breadth, we recommend that schools focus on just a few key areas and elements during “student voice reviews” – those most relevant to the issue under examination. The chart above shows SVC’s attempt to connect each area to 6 elements that relate most closely. We hope this guides schools who choose to explore a particular area. However, we encourage schools to select and match areas and elements to meet their own needs.
- The above areas and elements, as well as the indicators of student voice (listed beneath elements) on the pages that follow, are based on extensive research SVC conducted during the 2011-2012 school year, including data collected from students, teachers, researchers, and shadowing Quality Reviews.

Student Voice Rubric

STUDENT VOICE COLLABORATIVE

AREA #1

School Governance

COMMUNICATION & CULTURE OF LISTENING

- ✓ Students informed of current school and classroom policies
- ✓ Students offered opportunities to discuss policies/governance together
- ✓ Students offered opportunities to discuss policies/governance w/ staff
- ✓ Staff acknowledges, takes note of, and shares back student feedback

COLLABORATION

- ✓ Students/staff conduct research together on school issues
- ✓ Students/staff generate ideas together about how to improve school
- ✓ Students/staff develop action plans together to improve school
- ✓ Students/staff organize school community around addressing issues

CONTRIBUTING TO DECISIONS

- ✓ Staff makes decision-making process clear to students
- ✓ Staff offers students meaningful/regular ways to weigh in during process
- ✓ Students/teachers make classroom policies and decisions together
- ✓ Students/staff make school-wide policies and decisions together

RESPONSIVE: STUDENT VOICE LEADS TO ACTION

- ✓ Students/staff implement shared plans together
- ✓ Students/staff monitor initiatives and reflect together
- ✓ Students/staff share progress and results of student contributions publically
- ✓ Students/staff revise and improve initiatives together

STUDENT GOVERNMENT WITH TRUE POWER

- ✓ Student government is provided quality leadership training
- ✓ Student government identifies and explores real school issues
- ✓ Student government advises leadership team/committees on key issues
- ✓ Student government involved in carrying out initiatives and policies

REAL LEADERSHIP ROLES

- ✓ Multiple students serve on School Leadership Team
- ✓ Multiple students serve on each other important school committee
- ✓ Students publish newspaper with commentary on student life and policy
- ✓ Students help to evaluate the school

Student Voice Rubric

STUDENT VOICE COLLABORATIVE

AREA #2

Classroom Culture

COMMUNICATION & CULTURE OF LISTENING

- ✓ There is order to conversation – when one talks, others listen (one mic)
- ✓ Students offered opportunities for peer conferencing
- ✓ Teachers promote student-led discussion
- ✓ Teachers solicit, discuss, and respond to student feedback

VARIETY AND CHOICE

- ✓ Lessons appeal to a variety of learning styles
- ✓ Students offered opportunities to be creative/express themselves
- ✓ Students offered choice in activities
- ✓ Students offered choice in topics

ENCOURAGE PARTICIPATION

- ✓ Teachers create a safe space and encourage students
- ✓ Teachers assign challenging tasks and ask thought-provoking questions
- ✓ Students provided time to think/process before sharing with group
- ✓ Teachers call on a wide range of students

COLLABORATION

- ✓ Students work with variety of peers in pairs and groups
- ✓ Students/teachers plan lessons together
- ✓ Students/teachers facilitate activities together
- ✓ Students/teachers grade and evaluate together

AUTHENTIC TASKS AND REAL WORLD EXPERIENCES

- ✓ Students engage in project-based learning, research, and inquiry
- ✓ Students offered opportunities to connect work to goals and interests
- ✓ Students offered opportunities to take part in service learning
- ✓ Students offered internship/work experience opportunities

CONSTRUCTIVIST LEARNING

- ✓ Students offered opportunities to experiment and test ideas
- ✓ Teachers present problems with multiple paths and solutions
- ✓ Students offered opportunities for hands-on learning
- ✓ Students offered opportunities to reflect on learning

Student Voice Rubric

~~STUDENT VOICE COLLABORATIVE~~

AREA #3

Discipline and Problem-Solving

COMMUNICATION & CULTURE OF LISTENING

- ✓ There is order to conversation – when one talks, others listen (one mic)
- ✓ Students/staff share and agree to expectations for one another
- ✓ Students/staff have opportunities to explain/defend themselves
- ✓ Open door policy encourages sharing concerns/issues early on

COLLABORATION

- ✓ Students/staff develop core values together
- ✓ Students help mediate conflicts between students
- ✓ Students/staff address personal conflicts together in small groups
- ✓ Students/staff carry out resolutions to conflicts and monitor together

RELATIONSHIP DEVELOPMENT

- ✓ Students have opportunities to share and get to know one another
- ✓ Staff/students have opportunities to share and get to know one another
- ✓ Staff engages families, building bridges between school and home
- ✓ Students encouraged to meet/interact with a variety of students/staff

COMMUNITY-BUILDING

- ✓ School celebrates differences and combats bullying
- ✓ Student progress/achievement/leadership is recognized and appreciated
- ✓ Regular activities bring school community together
- ✓ Students share ownership over physical space

SUPPORTIVE STAFF

- ✓ Staff expresses interest in and empathy for students
- ✓ Staff addresses issues proactively when possible
- ✓ Staff responds to issues right away
- ✓ Staff offers students second chances and opportunities to learn from mistakes

EXPLORING SELF, IDENTITY, AND GOALS

- ✓ Students have opportunities to share their roots and stories
- ✓ Students have opportunities to think about and discuss their values
- ✓ Students set, adjust, and monitor own goals
- ✓ Students have opportunities to reflect on self and impact of decisions

Student Voice Rubric

STUDENT VOICE COLLABORATIVE

AREA #4
Advisement

SUPPORTIVE STAFF

- ✓ Staff expresses interest in and empathy for students
- ✓ Staff shares information and collaborates to support students
- ✓ Staff treats students fairly and with respect
- ✓ Staff offers equal opportunities to all students

APPEALING TO STUDENTS' LIVES AND INTERESTS

- ✓ Staff provides opportunities for students to share lives and interests
- ✓ Staff considers impact of life experiences on student views/behavior
- ✓ Staff considers student lives/interests in planning (advisement) curriculum
- ✓ Teachers encourage students to connect material to lives/prior knowledge

FOSTERING SELF-ADVOCACY

- ✓ Staff encourages students to stay informed and use resources
- ✓ Staff encourages students to hold themselves accountable
- ✓ Staff encourages students to ask for help
- ✓ Staff rewards initiative and action

ENCOURAGE PARTICIPATION

- ✓ Teachers create safe space so students feel comfortable sharing feelings
- ✓ Teachers ensure that every student who wants to has a chance to speak
- ✓ Teachers commend and reward participation
- ✓ Students provided time to think/process before sharing with group

PEER SUPPORT OPPORTUNITIES

- ✓ School offers peer tutoring program
- ✓ School offers peer mentoring program
- ✓ School offers peer mediation program
- ✓ School offers peer support groups

RELATIONSHIP DEVELOPMENT

- ✓ School offers students variety of supportive adults to relate to
- ✓ Staff helps students set and track goals
- ✓ Staff helps students identify challenges and ways to overcome them
- ✓ Students get to know a small group of peers deeply over time

Student Voice Rubric

STUDENT VOICE COLLABORATIVE

AREA #5

Student Activities

COLLABORATION

- ✓ Students/staff select activities to offer together based on need/interest
- ✓ Students/staff plan and organize activities together
- ✓ Students/staff facilitate activities together
- ✓ Students work together and share roles/responsibilities within activities

SUPPORTIVE STAFF

- ✓ Staff encourages students to facilitate activities as much as possible
- ✓ Staff offers time and guidance when needed
- ✓ Staff helps with funding and coordinating
- ✓ Principal supports activities however possible

ENCOURAGE PARTICIPATION

- ✓ Students have opportunity to suggest / vote on activities to be offered
- ✓ Information about available activities shared with all students
- ✓ Activities offer students opportunities to get to know one another
- ✓ Student participants actively recruit and organize

STUDENT GOVERNMENT WITH TRUE POWER

- ✓ Student government is diverse and represents a range of students
- ✓ Student government advises staff on activities to offer
- ✓ Student government proposes new activities and helps get them started
- ✓ Student government helps make decisions about student activities

VARIETY AND CHOICE

- ✓ Variety of student activities offered
- ✓ Activities include open and accessible to all students
- ✓ Participants choose direction activities go by contributing input
- ✓ Each activity encourages and respects a variety of opinions

AUTHENTIC TASKS AND REAL WORLD EXPERIENCES

- ✓ Activities connect to outside community
- ✓ Activities include out-of-school trips and experiences
- ✓ Activities prepare students for post-HS work/studies/life
- ✓ Activities involve interaction and hands-on learning

Student Voice Rubric

STUDENT VOICE COLLABORATIVE

AREA #6

Professional Development

AUTHENTIC TASKS & REAL-WORLD EXPERIENCES

- ✓ Teachers trained to relate curriculum to student interests/ experiences
- ✓ Teachers trained to integrate out-of-school experiences into class
- ✓ Teachers trained to prepare students for college/work /life after school
- ✓ Teachers trained in project-based and hands-on learning

SUPPORTIVE STAFF

- ✓ Teachers trained to counsel and problem-solve with students
- ✓ Teachers trained to collaborate with colleagues to support students
- ✓ Teachers trained to clarify, re-teach, and tutor students
- ✓ Teachers trained to be fair and respectful

CONSTRUCTIVIST LEARNING

- ✓ Teachers trained to conduct inquiry/research/experiments w/ students
- ✓ Teachers trained to support students as teachers and facilitators
- ✓ Teachers trained to conduct reflection with students
- ✓ Teachers trained to conduct effective group work with students

FOSTERING SELF-ADVOCACY

- ✓ Teachers trained to help students stay informed and use resources
- ✓ Teachers trained to encourage personal responsibility
- ✓ Teachers trained to promote habits of mind and work
- ✓ Teachers trained to promote thoughtful questioning and discussion

CONTRIBUTING TO DECISIONS

- ✓ Teachers trained to integrate feedback and make decisions w/ students
- ✓ Admin trained to integrate feedback and make decisions w/ students
- ✓ Teachers trained to help students research and develop policy proposals
- ✓ Staff trained to implement policies and initiatives with students

VARIETY AND CHOICE

- ✓ Teachers trained to accommodate a variety of learning styles
- ✓ Teachers trained to encourage creativity and self-expression
- ✓ Teachers trained to offer choice among activities
- ✓ Teachers trained to offer choice among topics