Youth Voice & Choice Webinar
Engage Every Student is a bold call to action to provide high-quality out-of-school time learning opportunities for every child who wants to participate.
The **U.S. Department of Education** is proud to be collaborating with a group of diverse stakeholders to Engage Every Student.

- AASA, the School Superintendents Association
- Afterschool Alliance
- National League of Cities
- National Summer Learning Association
- National Comprehensive Center at Westat
Join Us!

Become an **ALLY** of Engage Every Student.

Make a **PLEDGE** to work toward Afterschool and Summer for all.

[www.engageeverystudent.org](http://www.engageeverystudent.org)
Check out the new Youth Voice Toolkit
AfterschoolAlliance.org/YouthVoiceToolkit
Powered by Youth Voice: Future Directions for Afterschool
Hikma Sherka
Every Hour Counts
POWERED BY YOUTH VOICE: FUTURE DIRECTIONS FOR AFTERSCHOOL
POWERED BY YOUTH VOICE: FUTURE DIRECTIONS FOR AFTERSCHOOL

Through the generous support of:
Every Hour Counts Network

Bay Area, CA  Pittsburgh, PA
Boston, MA  Providence, RI
Chicago, IL  Richmond, VA
Cleveland, OH  Rochester, NY
Dallas, TX  St. Paul, MN
Denver, CO  Tacoma, WA
Detroit, MI  Tulsa, OK
Fresno, CA
Grand Rapids, MI
Houston, TX
Kalamazoo, MI
King County (Seattle), WA
Madison, WI
Minneapolis, MN
Nashville, TN
Newark, NJ
New York City, NY
Omaha, NE
Palm Beach County, FL
Philadelphia, PA
“Nothing about us without us”

**Mission:** Increase equity with and for Minnesota’s indigenous, low-income, and racially diverse youth.

**Vision:** We envision a Minnesota where outcomes for youth are no longer predictable by race, geography, or social economic status.
VISION FOR A YOUTH POWERED AFTERSCHOOL

Elevate
- Elevate youth voice and leadership to advance new directions for the afterschool field

Empower
- Empower young people as creators and designers of improvements to existing or creation of new after school programs in their local communities

Catalyze
- Catalyze OST practice change in the context of addressing racial inequity and other issues of systemic oppression

Shift
- Shift the mindset and behaviors of participating intermediary organizations to share power and more fully center systems change on youth voice

Identify
- Identify promising practices to advance the afterschool field
INITIATIVE OVERVIEW

• Design Thinking, Peer Learning, & Proposal Development
• Six Communities, Six Ideas
• Youth Zoom MeetUps
• National Youth Survey
• $100k for implementation
• Youth Powered Convening
• Participatory Grantmaking
• Amplify Youth Voice Advisory Committee
POWERED BY YOUTH VOICE: FUTURE DIRECTIONS FOR AFTERSCHOOL

Design thinking & peer learning communities!
Powered by Youth Voice: Future Directions for Afterschool
"You Would Feel the Love When You Walked In"
Youth Reimagine the Future of Afterschool Programs
Youth powered
DECEMBER 2-4 • Chicago

Coming Together to Reimagine Afterschool

every hour counts youthprise
YOUTH POWERED: Coming Together to Reimagine Afterschool

- December 2-4 | Chicago, IL
- 60 Youth ages 12-19 share their proposals to reimagine afterschool with youth at the center
- 50+ adult local, state, and national leaders join to listen to youth ideas
- Youth work together to award $100,000
- Intergenerational space with youth-only and adult-only spaces
- Art Shares
$30,000
Kalamazoo, MI
Creating structures for youth leadership, peer relationships for spaces of belonging, and inclusion for all identities (SPI).

$25,000
Providence, RI
Youth-led summits and state-level advocacy focused on mental health, college and career readiness, and youth leadership structures.

$15,000
Nashville, TN
A music city movement focused on youth leadership, life skills, and peer-based school supports.
$10,000
Chicago, IL
Building the REC, a new youth-led afterschool space with focus on social and emotional learning, cultural awareness, performing arts, career coaching, financial literacy and postsecondary enrichment.

$10,000
Flint, MI
Providing scholarship opportunities to fund youth driven extracurricular activity costs for young people to explore their passions.

$10,000
Palm Beach County, FL
Designing Vivid Futures with arts-based college and career internships led by youth.
Guiding Values in the Initiative

- Youth-led space that promotes equity and justice, fosters participation and inclusion, promotes understanding and respects differences, transparent grantmaking, and supports young people’s skill development.
- A collaborative space for idea sharing
- Keep the focus on real recommendations with real financial implications for communities and the ability for afterschool to facilitate healing and be the space that young people imagine
- Connecting learning to impact quality, systems, and policy
- Opportunity to celebrate the work!
Centering Youth Voice Throughout

- Community selection process
- National Youth Survey
- Design Thinking
- Participatory Grant Making
- Youth Zoom Meet Ups
Centering Youth Voice in Existing Practices

Let’s Make Waves!
2023 Every Hour Counts Conference
West Palm Beach • May 30-June 1
For more information, click here.
CONNECT WITH US!

Hikma Sherka (she/her)

hsherka@everyhourcounts.org

Libby Rau (she/her)

libby@youthprise.org
Adult-Centered vs. Youth-Centered Organizations Panel
The Neutral Zone, Ann Arbor MI

- 21 “youth driven” weekly programs in music, literary arts, leadership, visual arts & education
- Drop-in
- Weekend Concerts/ Special Events
- Future Corps
Youth Driven Spaces (YDS)

What is a YDS?
A setting in which youth/teens are intentionally involved in authentic program, organizational and governance decisions and roles.

Value Proposition:
Youth thrive when they have voice and engage in genuine decision making. We empower youth by supporting organizations to develop new practices that lead to a culture of youth and adult partnerships.
YOUTH DO THE FOLLOWING …

- Set Goals and Develop Strategic Plans
- Facilitate Meetings
- Run Dialogues
- Curate Shows and Performances
- Promote Events/Projects
- Recruit and Train other Participants
YOUTH-DRIVEN PRACTICES @ THE ORGANIZATION LEVEL

YOUTH DO THE FOLLOWING . . .

• Establish Norms and Expectations
• Own the Physical Space
• Participate in Staff Hiring
• Approve New Program Initiatives
• Evaluate Programs
YOUTH-DRIVEN PRACTICES @ THE GOVERNANCE LEVEL

YOUTH DO THE FOLLOWING…

● Serve on the Board and Board Committees
● Partake in Organizational Strategic Planning
● Support Community Outreach
● Fundraise
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<th>Level of Student Involvement</th>
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Youth-Adult Partnerships

This is the 2021 Ladder of Meaningful Student Involvement by Adam Fletcher for SoundOut.org
John Weiss
weiss@neutral-zone.org

Follow us on Twitter
@YOUTHDRIVEN

Join the YDS Newsletter!
Community Conversation

Youth Voice in programming & evaluation

with

VOX ATL
About Us

**VOX ATL** is leading a youth-voice movement where teens from diverse backgrounds create a stronger, more equitable community through leadership & uncensored self-expression.

- Teens first — since 1993
- After-school & summer programming for up to 150 teens/year
- Atlanta Teen Voices partner opportunities.
- Training & Facilitation services to increase youth voice & impact!
What is Youth Voice?

"Youth input" or "voice" is one Standard of **quality programming** ...

(e.g. GA ASYD QE 1 - 1.6, 1.8; QE 8; Weikart’s YPQI)

.. but youth voice is more than a participant survey or activity choice!
What is Youth Voice - from Teens

In OST, meaningful youth voice means engaging young people actively in the design, implementation, and evaluation of programs and services aimed at supporting them.

Youth voice is an essential component of diversity, equity, inclusion (DEI) and a sense of belonging for all.
Youth Voice Must be Meaningful

Prioritizing youth voice must be intentional.

Consider the purpose of the program or event to determine the purpose of youth voices to inform it.

→ An event designed to attract and engage youth participants *may* have more youth voice and leadership involved than an event designed to inform and inspire adult supporters.

→ Each type of event benefits from meaningful youth involvement.

Commit to ensuring youth voice is authentic & meaningful.

→ If there are non-negotiables, state those clearly before inviting youth voice so everyone is set up for success.

*See “tips from teens” video for other ways to set everyone up for success!

YD Tools: input, sharing expertise, assessing needs
First - Create a Culture of Youth Voice

- Real engagement requires relationship-building over time
- Commit to (and train for) power-sharing
- Ground Rules and other norms create brave and protected spaces
- Communicate time commitment & payments if available

YD Tools: SEL/self-awareness and relationships, input, community builder
Include Youth Voice Throughout

**Before**
- Youth can be involved in planning the activity, program outcomes, and an evaluation tool.

**During**
- Invite youth to speak up about how things are going; engage youth on evaluation teams.

**After**
- Empower youth to help lead evaluation activities; use their input to make changes.

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What - So What - Now What
- (e.g., identifying skills desired or planning self-assessments, SMART goal setting; create Vision Boards, training teens as peer leaders ...)

Formative Feedback
- (e.g., reflective closings each day or monthly check-ins with "glows & grows" or other formative feedback activities*)

Celebrate, thank and assess together! (E.g., revisit our goals or vision board, impact and interactive skills assessments)
Stay in Touch!

For more resources from VOX ATL and original teen-created content, please visit VOXATL.org.

For more experiences like this one:
- Vibing in the Virtual Space video playlist on VOX ATL YouTube
- Guide on the Side video playlist on VOX ATL YouTube
- Guide on the Side page on VOXATL.org

To schedule a customized training, email Rachel@voxatl.org.

Connect with us on social media! @voxroxatl & @atlwordworks
QUESTIONS FOR YOU

● What do you already do that moves towards being more youth-centered?
● Is there one thing you could change that would have a big impact on being more youth-centered?
Youth Voices Panel
Jamora Arroyo-Jefferson  
Miami, FL

Spencer Harrison  
Pryor, OK

Angie Mejia-Sierra  
Oakland Park, FL
Closing Remarks
Bryan Joffe
AASA, The School Superintendents Association
Thank you for attending today’s Engage Every Student Webinar. Help us continue to refine future engagement opportunities by completing our short evaluation using the link in the chat.