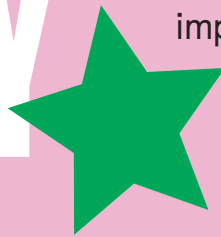


ENGAGING YOUTH VOICE IN ADVOCACY



Students are critical partners in advocacy. Youth-driven student advocacy and adult partnerships can create further pathways for change by:

- Identifying key issues from those directly impacted by the public education system;
- Fostering intergenerational learning;
- Building a shared strategy between all community members working towards a common goal;
- Implementing a shared strategy in a united way; therefore,
- Creating meaningful change in communities driven by the students impacted by education reform.



PROMISING PRACTICES

REACHING OUT

Think about young people in your life who are interested in advocacy and local groups of students engaging in civic action. Teachers are also a great resource to get connected to diverse groups of students with varying experiences in school, extracurricular activities and academics. Once you get connected to students, ask them what platforms are most accessible – text, messenger, or social media might be better than email.

BE SOLUTIONS-ORIENTED

Work with young people to have solution-oriented discussions about the problems they face in their school environment. The partnership should be focused on fostering creative approaches, increasing awareness and ensuring equitable representation to strengthen students' experiences in schools.

BRIDGE THE EMPATHY GAP

Students do not want to be viewed as lesser or treated like the “other.” Meaningful engagement is empathizing with the student experience while seeing students as partners who can provide valuable insights and information. This includes being treated as professionals who can propose valuable solutions to issues that directly affect them.

EQUAL PARTNERSHIPS BUILT ON TRUST

Adult and student relationships are built on trust. For meaningful partnerships to occur, recognizing that students are experts in their own experiences in school is essential. When both parties trust each other and believe that the other is acting with the best intentions, both adults and students will feel more comfortable sharing their experiences and using their voices.

CA AB261 and Education Code 35012 allow students to sit as representatives on school boards.

Student
Voice



CREATECA.ORG