Youth Voice in Community Schools: Building Collaborative School Leadership Structures

Tuesday, January 24, 2:00 – 3:00 PM Eastern Time

IEL CCS RPN Research Agenda

RPN Research Agenda Topics

Translating Research into Practice

Research needs to be accessible to practitioners, must be responsive to practitioners' needs, and must accurately reflect practice. Research should support the feedback loop between data and decision-making. One key lever in this process is data democratization- making data more available. We must understand how to effectively collect and share program participation data across agencies and partners. This includes best practices around data-sharing agreements, data-sharing software, and other tools.

Defining and Supporting Roles

Another primary theme from our discussion concerns the roles of the different community school partners/constituents. The main interest is in defining the unique roles of the teacher, administrator, and coordinator, as well as family and community members in the community school setting.

Organizing

More research is needed to understand the value of community organizing for sustaining and supporting community school implementation. There is a need to understand how grassroots community organizing is present in the daily work of community schools and how it could be.

IEL CCS RPN Co-Chairs

Jessica Knapp
CCS RPN Practitioner Co-Chair; Executive
Director & Vice President at
Communities in Schools of Pennsylvania

Dr. Naorah Rimkunas
CCS RPN Researcher Co-Chair;
Assistant Professor of Community
Schools at Binghamton University

Speakers

Presentation Speakers:

Dr. Ilene Berman, Director, Evidence-Based Practice Group, Annie E. Casey Foundation

José Muñoz, Senior Director, Coalition for Community Schools, Institute for Educational Leadership

Dr. Emily Cheng, Senior Data Analyst, Institute for Educational Leadership

Dr. Helen Malone, Senior Vice President, Institute for Educational Leadership

Sabrina Sheikh, Immigrant and Refugee Leadership Coordinator, Institute for Educational Leadership

The Annie E. Casey Foundation develops solutions to build a brighter future for children, families and communities.

Thrive by 25: Improving Well-Being for Youth and Young Adults

All young people ages 14–24 and their children have the family connections, relationships, communities and educational and employment opportunities necessary for their well-being and success.

Why Youth and Young Adults?

- **Critical developmental period** in a young person's life that creates the foundation for later success

- **Research** reveals opportunities for behavior change that should inform **practice and policy decisions**

- Young adults are the **parents of the very young children** we know need a good start

- Unique opportunity to **develop and advocate for solutions with young people,** not just for them

Why Support the Youth Voice in Community Schools Guide?

- Build on the strong evidence-based, equity focused approach

- Learn more about current youth leadership practices in community schools across the country

- Provide practical and actionable guidance for youth-serving practitioners to support youth leadership
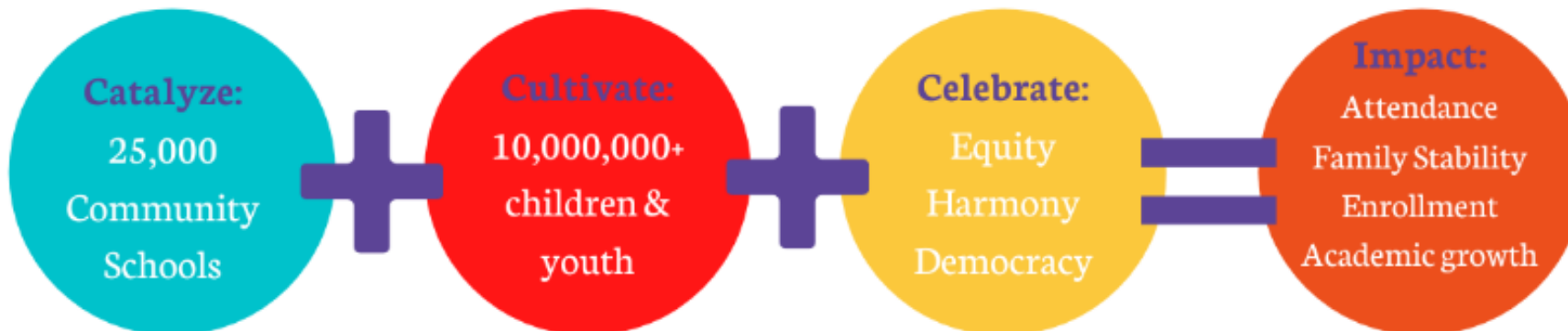
Coalition for Community Schools

The Coalition for Community Schools supports the growth, quality, and unification of Community Schools by catalyzing collaboration across communities and states; cultivating the quality of Community Schools and systems; and celebrating the successes of students, families, and communities.

Grounded in practicing our principles:

- BUILD ON COMMUNITY STRENGTHS

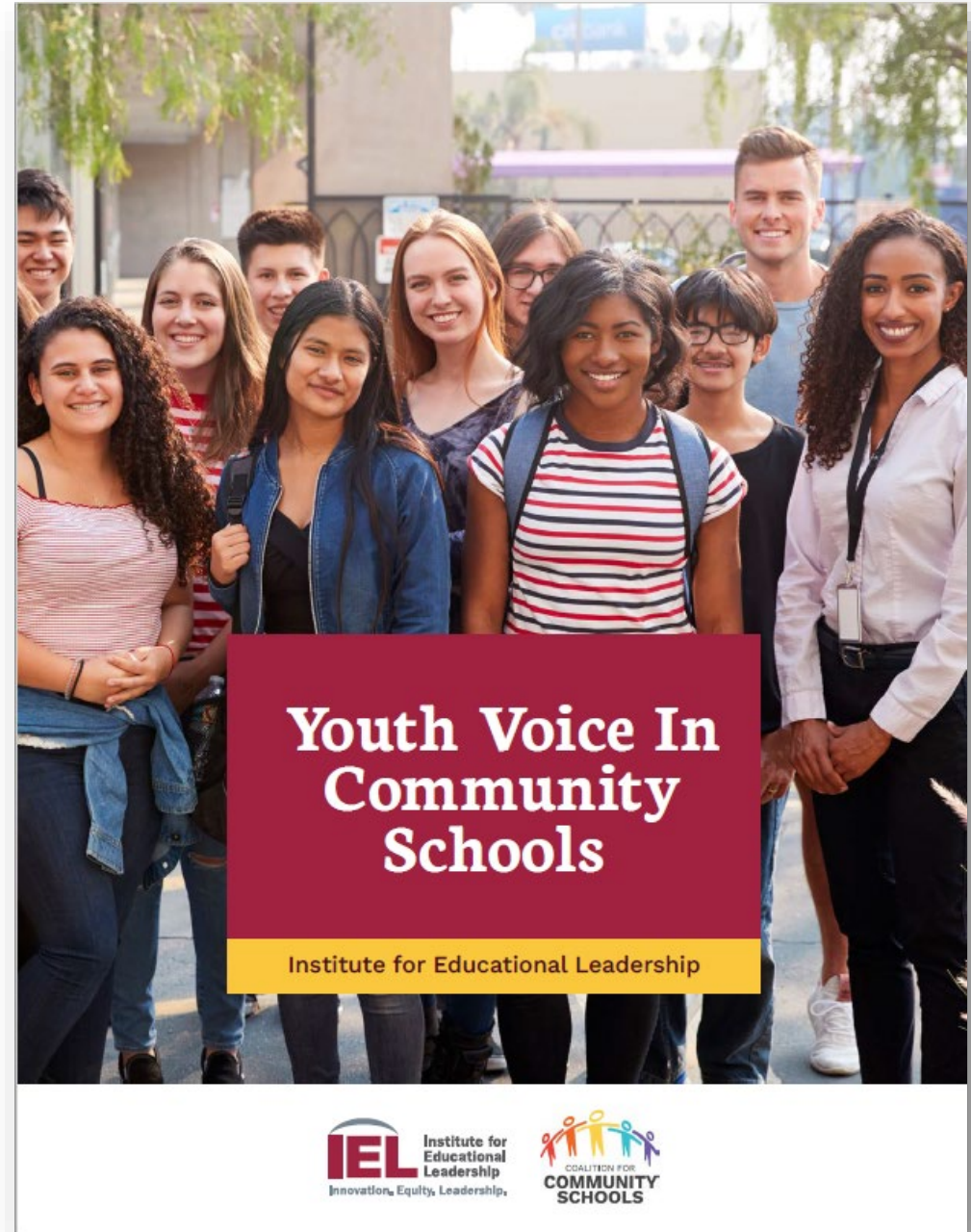- INVEST IN TRUSTING RELATIONSHIPS

- COMMIT TO CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

And will be achieved through three core strategies:

Catalyze: 25,000 Community Schools **+** **Cultivate:** 10,000,000+ children & youth **+** **Celebrate:** Equity Harmony Democracy **=** **Impact:** Attendance Family Stability Enrollment Academic growth

Youth Voice in Community Schools

The Development of the Guide

Purpose

1. Recognize youth voice as a community asset and critical elements of effectively engaging youth

2. Illuminate best practices for meaningful engagement of youth in Community Schools

3. Provide Community Schools practitioners with essential strategies and steps to advance their student engagement efforts

Methods

1. Literature Review
2. Data Collection
   - Time: March-May 2022
   - A national network survey
   - Virtual sessions with youth from 6 partnering high schools
3. Data Analysis
4. Framework Development

Framework

Framework for Youth Voice, Engagement, and Leadership in Community Schools
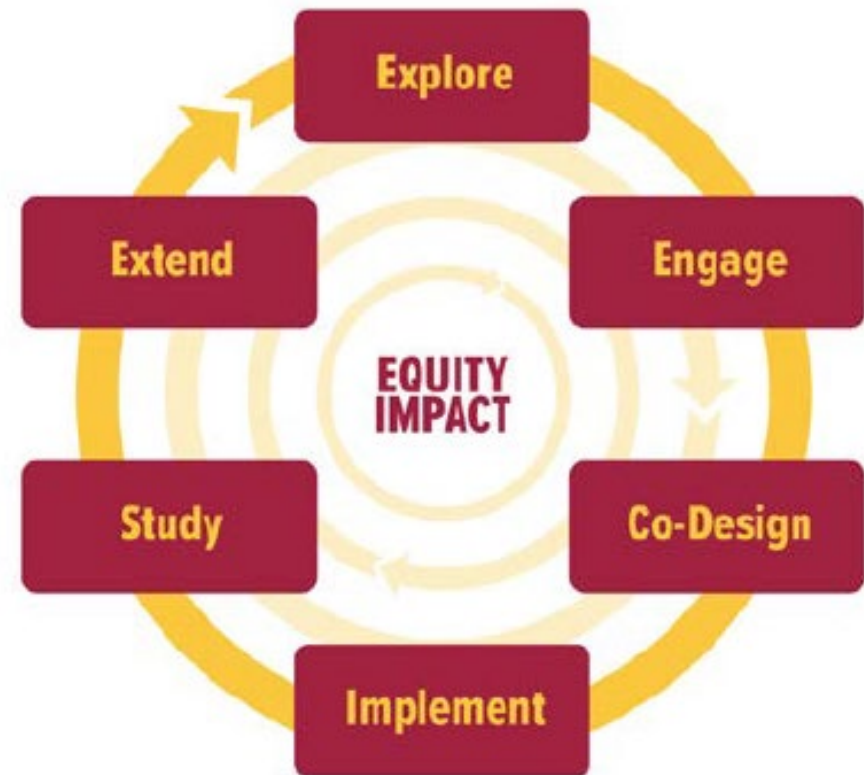
Guide Recommendations

Figure 2. Process for Youth Engagement

Note: Adapted from the Institute for Educational Leadership (IEL) Community-Driven Equity Improvement Process

Explore

Explore	Opportunities & Resources	Leading Knowledge & Skills	Equity
	Map existing leadership groups youth are participating in	Identify leadership development opportunities for students	Quantify students already participating in decision-making
	Map potential opportunities for students to participate in decision-making for the school and district	Identify leadership development opportunities for adults on authentic youth engagement	Identify disconnected student populations by chronic absenteeism and student mobility data
	Identify adults and existing partner organizations that engage young people well		Intentionally include the most disconnected students

Engage

	Opportunities & Resources	Leading Knowledge & Skills	Equity
Engage	Schedule meeting with existing student leaders from respective programs and adults they work with Prepare enrollment and attendance data for student leaders share challenges and opportunities Design meeting facilitation to learn existing student leaders experience and how they could be engaged with adults in school/district decisions (budgets, programs, civic engagement, partnerships, etc.)	Conduct first cohort of leadership development opportunities and supports for students, educators, partners, and families	Distribute school-wide survey allowing all students opportunity to share experiences, challenges and opportunities to contribute to school/district decisions Conduct focus groups for disconnected student populations by chronic absenteeism and student mobility data to share experiences, challenges, and opportunities to contribute to school/district decisions Conduct focus groups of disconnected students' caregivers to share experiences, challenges, and opportunities to contribute to school/district decisions

Co-Design

	Opportunities & Resources	Leading Knowledge & Skills	Equity
Co-Design	Use Community School Council meetings for students and adults to create the protocols that ensure student participation and equal voice in decisions, and identify indicators of success for addressing challenges and creating opportunities	Use Community School Council meetings to design protocols for scaling leadership development opportunities for students and adults	Work with students to develop protocols, tools, and reporting structure to ensure students attending Community School Council meetings are informed by student body with an emphasis on disconnected students

Implement

	Opportunities & Resources	Leading Knowledge & Skills	Equity
Implement	Conduct Community School Council meetings frequently for decision making around developing budgets, development opportunities, solutions to challenges, and innovations for advancing the lives of students and their families Arrange for student presentations at school board, city and county, and other meetings on Community Schools Council plans and outcomes	Create diverse opportunities for students to practice learned leadership skills	Quantify and disaggregate the data of the student body engagement contributing information to student representatives of the Community School Council Have students co-facilitate all Community School Council meetings

Study

Study	Opportunities & Resources	Leading Knowledge & Skills	Equity
	Track % of ideas introduced/ created by students at Community School Council meetings being executed Track changes in school/district practices as a result of engaging students	Track the # of participants in leadership development Track the % of the enrolled students complete leadership Track the # and % of students involved in leadership opportunities	Track the # of students that contributed to informing Community School Councils Track % of disconnected students getting involved in leadership

Extend

	Opportunities & Resources	Leading Knowledge & Skills	Equity
Extend	Adopt district policy incorporating student school board members equal to their adult peers Adopt district policy and procedures for students informing school/district decisions that affect them and/or their families	Create structure and protocols for students to conduct leadership development	Develop structure and process for students across Community Schools to assess aggregate engagement information of their peers, and review and write district policies and processes accordingly

Vignettes – Stories Shared by Youth

12 students from the following six Community Schools shared their stories.

- Batesville Public Schools (AR)
- University Pathways Public Service Academy (CA)
- Robert F. Kennedy Community Schools (CA)
- Mann UCLA Community School (CA)
- Atrisco Heritage High School (NM)
- North Division High School (WI)

Engaging Youth in Community Schools

Panel Discussion

Panel Moderator & Panelist

Moderator:

Sabrina Sheikh, Immigrant and Refugee Leadership Coordinator, Institute for Educational Leadership

Panelists:

Leyda Garcia, Associate Director for Professional Learning at our UCLA Center for Community Schooling

LauraAnn Howard, Community Schools Coordinator, Batesville School District

Derrick Shoates, Community School Coordinator, North Division High School

Panel Discussion Questions

1. What areas is your school performing well in according to the guide's framework? Can you give some examples?

2. What areas would you like to improve based on the guide's framework? Can you give some examples of how you plan to do this?

3. As a coordinator, how do you collaborate with school leaders and administration to prioritize student input in decision-making at the school?

Please review previous webinar and session recordings on **CCS RPN Webpage**

Thank You!

Please fill out the post-webinar feedback form!