



All City Council
Student Research Team
Da Town Researchers

2014 – 2015 Research, Findings, and
Recommendations

Who We Are

The Meaningful Student Engagement Collaborative is a group of organizations and individuals that work in partnership with the district to help engage, uplift, and empower students, parents, and families.

All City Council functions as Oakland Unified's Student Union. We work to promote, expand, and uplift students voice and power.

Da Town Researchers are a cohort of High School and Middle School students that work with the All City Council to conduct research that supports the campaigns of All City Council. Da Town Researchers also come together to make recommendations to the Oakland Unified School Board from the student perspective.

Overview of Recommendations

Code of Conduct:

Student Lead Trainings

Student Hiring Committees

Student Feedback for All School Staff

Research Question

What beliefs and practices does OUSD need to continue strengthening in schools in order to make sure decisions incorporate meaningful student and parent voices?

Research Methodology

- Researchers used both surveys and focus groups to collect data and gather input from students. Each focus group lasted between 20 – 45 minutes, and was conducted with a researcher and a note-taker present.
- Focus Group participants were all engaged either at this year's Youth Action Summit, hosted by All City Council, or were conducted in classes in OUSD.
- Surveys were collected by the researchers on a case by case basis. Students were asked, to the best of their ability, to fill out surveys that had approximately 20 questions including information about ethnicity, gender identity, school affiliation, their year in school, and their age.

Findings

Finding #1: Over 1/3 of students surveyed don't believe that everyone is getting what they need in school.

Finding #2: Students are overwhelmingly interested in giving feedback, however a lack of connection, coupled with a lack of expectation of being heard and respected, often stop them from reaching out. Barriers to reaching out include gender, race, and age.

Finding #3: Students see themselves as the best source of material when it comes to building cultural capacity and that all teachers, regardless of subject, need cultural competency training.

Recommendations

- We fully implemented, student voice should be prioritized. One recommendation we have as a way to prioritize student voice is establishing a quarterly meeting between student leaders and researchers and district-wide school site leadership (Kevin Taylor) to further support student engagement, authentic student voice and uplift student leadership by working with high school principals to fully implement at least one of the 4 Recommendations.
- We had a good amount of participation from students, but we feel that we could use more support from the district in terms 1) continuing to Meaningful Student Engagement Standards 2) funding for the Student and Family Engagement Department, specifically at school sites, and Student and Community-Based Research in the school year. We strongly believe that it is in the best interest of all students in OUSD to support the implementation of at least 4 Recommendations that have been put forth, we ask that you continue supporting in all ways that you see possible to make this possible.
- We know the district is trying to implement many initiatives such as the LCAP, Intensive School Support, Restorative Justice, and Social and Emotional Learning. We believe that in order for these and other school transformation strategies to be success

THANK YOU!