The Value of Student Voice.
Youth Voice is successfully integrating youths ideas, experiences, and insight into the organizations that directly affect them.
Why Is Youth Voice important?

Through the integration of Colorado youth into the decision making process, leaders like yourselves gain the powerful asset of the voices and experiences of those your policies affect. This integration improves the decision maker’s insight by incorporating the youth’s major ideas and opinions.
WHY YOUTH VOICE IS IMPORTANT TO US!

We believe that Youth Voice will bring out the best of Colorado youth because it will open the door to equality and opportunities we rarely get.

Youth Voice is important to me because it allows students to have a say in the process of what’s happening. It gets us more involved with the policies that affect us and gives us a legitimate say in what decisions are made that have a direct affect on us.

I believe that adults should work with students to solve problems. Sometimes adults oversee the real problems . . .

. . . A youth’s voice, viewpoints, and opinions are very necessary for creating and maintaining meaningful and long lasting youth adult partnerships.
Why is it important to organizations?

What benefits has your organization experienced from engaging youth in your planning, programming, and evaluation?

- "[Youth Voice] created more successful programming... reducing cost... more youth ownership of the program which reduces conflict between youth in the space..."
- "Increased connections and collaboration with other agencies who touched the lives of youth."
- "Decreased drop out numbers and increased community involvement"
- "[Youth voice participants] have a very different and unique way of looking at things. We have had many ‘aha’s’"
- "Less behavior issues"
YOUTH VOICE

Pro’s

- New Perspectives
- Young adults think outside the box
- It allows young adults to express themselves in a positive way
- It helps adults understand youths opinions and values
- It changes how some adults see youth and how they can contribute in a positive way
- Improves ones organization and programming
As a student certain resources can be hard to come by

By utilizing tools we already have available we can simply circumvent any problem that arise. We can have meetings near bus routes, use computers available to the public, and make sure to incorporate the youth by any means necessary.

Students don’t have adequate experience to offer valuable impute regarding the policies.

This is a simple fix because there is no problem. The students opinions come from their day-to-day lives, not from research. In fact, their opinions are the most accurate anyone could have.

Youth voice can be misinterpreted

This is going to be the responsibility of the adults to clarify that they understand, and are mature enough to respect the ideas that the students offer.
How can Youth Voice benefit you!!?
Different Ways To Engage the Youth Voice Include...

- Self expression
- More detailed feedback
- Opinions
- Representation
- Collaboration

- Experience
- Partnerships
- Internships
- Advisory Boards
- Consultation
RESOURCES

  Workbook on Family and Youth Involvement

- [http://coloradoyouthdevelopment.ning.com](http://coloradoyouthdevelopment.ning.com)
  Social network dedicated to youth development in CO

- [www.healthyouthcolorado.org](http://www.healthyouthcolorado.org)
  Resources on Positive Youth Development & Youth-Adult Partnerships
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Created By: Project VOYCE Interns

Janet Luna — Bruce Randolph
Samantha Lobato — Career Education Center

Denver School of Science & Technology Interns

Bear Peterson & Grant Gladson