

Amplifying Student Voice: Lane County's Youth Equity Council

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<https://lesd.link/YouthVoice>

Session Objectives:

- Value of youth voice
- History, process, outcomes, and impact
- Nuts and bolts
- Lessons learned
- Future growth
- Taking it all back home!

Warming Up at Your Tables...

Go around your tables and:

1. Introduce yourself, tell your role and location
2. Explain your motivation for attending a breakout session on youth voice. What do you hope to get from our time together?

Where Did We Come From?

Alyssa Dodds' work in Springfield



2018-19 Youth Equity Council

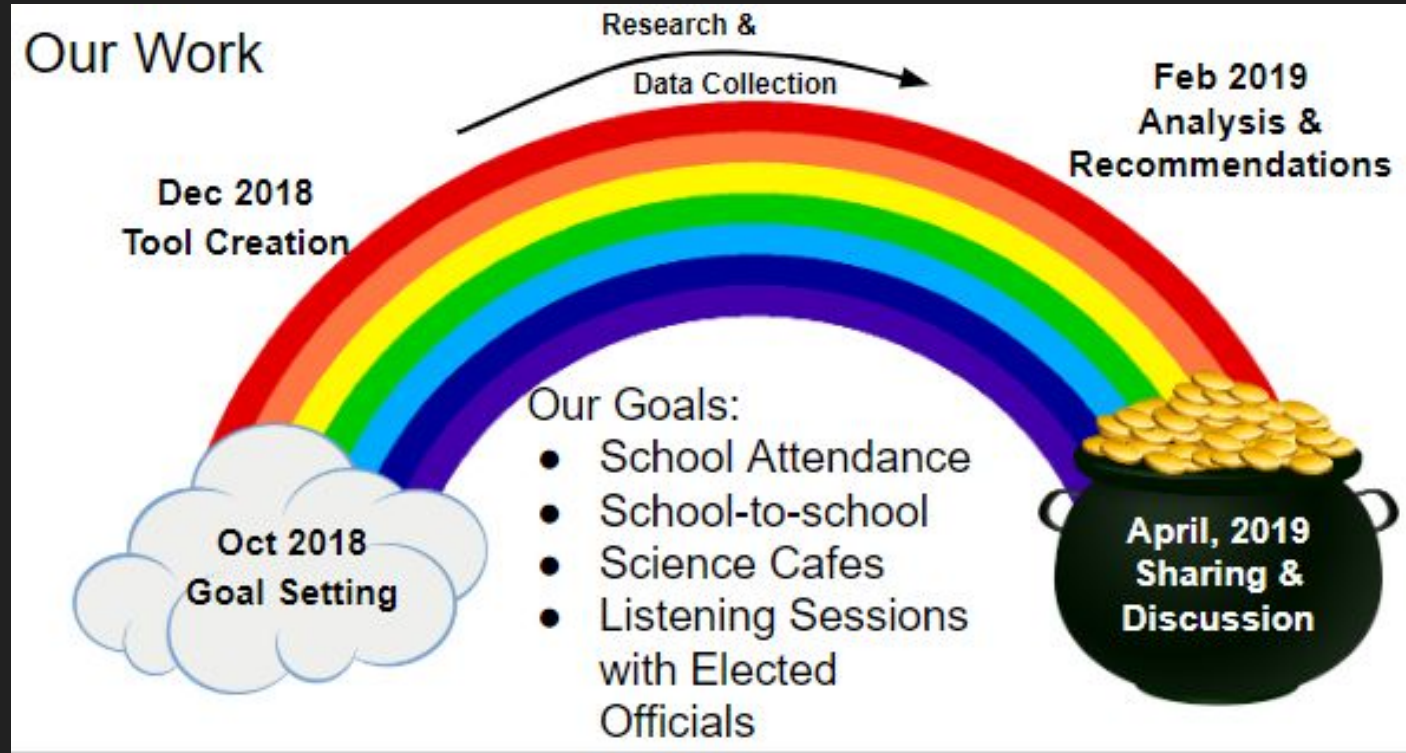
- 4 schools
- 25 students
- 4 adult allies
- 4 meetings at Lane ESD



The Idea:

1. Provide students with data
2. Let students find the inequities-don't worry, they are always there!
3. Watch them get fired up
4. Listen while they decide what to do about it
5. Provide time, space, guidance, technical support, and money so that they can do their thing

Goals for 2018-19



The Process

1. Data analysis: attendance data, school profiles (STEM/CTE enrollment data, dual credit data), goal setting
2. Survey creation, Lane County Public Health visit
3. Survey and data analysis: evidence based questions and discussion prompts
4. School visits
5. Equity Summit: Oregon ACTE pre-conference breakout session



In Their Own Words



Role of the Adult Ally

- Scaffolding civic engagement
- Creating a safe space with common agreements
- Staying out of the way
- Remember to invite them to the decision making table
- Let your admin know you've got students trained to participate as valuable stakeholders



Lessons Learned

1. Provide structure for student recruitment
2. Structure discussions to amplify youth- not adult- voice
3. Students are busy! They are not at our disposal
4. Students will be brutally and refreshingly honest when data shows inequities
5. Listening to youth is a paradigm shift for many adults

Carrying the Work Forward

Where do you have students already present and voicing opinions?

What decision making meetings could you invite students to?

What other ideas do you have?



Just because students are present, does not mean they are **heard**

Youth Voice Protocol:

- Before the meeting
- During the meeting
- After the meeting



Resources available: <https://lesd.link/YouthVoice>

Guide for selecting students

Springfield Youth Voice handbook

Invitation letter to teachers and administrators, student friendly flyer

Youth Voice protocol

Sample agendas and slideshows for meetings

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Your Commitment

On the index card provided, describe one commitment you are making today to amplify youth voice within your context.