

# EFFECTIVE INTEGRATION OF STUDENT VOICE INTO SCHOOLS

Illinois State Board of Education Student Advisory Council Final Presentation 2015 - 2016

*Presented by Co-Chairs Nicole Marcus and Travis Whitt*

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*“We all need people who will give us feedback. That's how we improve. Unfortunately, there's one group of people who get almost no systematic feedback to help them do their jobs better, and these people have one of the most important jobs in the world. I'm talking about teachers.” – Bill Gates*



# THESIS

The Illinois State Board of Education Student Advisory Council is advocating for the effective integration of the voice of students for the purpose of teacher improvement and for the establishment of a collaborative school community.

# WHY HAVE STUDENT VOICE?

- Measures of Effective Teaching (MET) Project
  - Reliable Source
  - Predict Learning Gains
- Survey of seniors
  - Students match professional study
  - Passion, flexibility, engaging with students

# BENEFITS TEACHERS

- Accuracy
  - 95% more so than administrators
- Receptiveness
  - 85% take surveys seriously
- Frequency
  - 6% very often, 31% often

# PROPOSALS

## Student Voice

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graph TD; A[Student Voice] --> B[Surveys for teacher feedback]; A --> C[Forums for school environment feedback]; A --> D[ISBE Student Advisory Council role];
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Surveys for  
teacher feedback

Forums for school  
environment  
feedback

ISBE Student  
Advisory Council  
role

# FEEDBACK SURVEYS

- Statewide
  - 5Essentials
  - Georgia
- Adjustments
  - Given each semester
  - Shorten
  - Focused on teacher practice

Figure 18: Survey Results Summary Sheet (Sample for Grade 7 teacher)

Survey Results Summary										
Question	Number of Valid Responses	Percentage of Ratings				Mean	District Mean	State Mean	Median	Standard Deviation
		Strongly Agree (3 pts)	Agree (2 pts)	Disagree (1 pt)	Strongly Disagree (0 pt)					
My teacher uses different ways to teach and help me learn.	30	3%	50%	47%	0%	2.57	2.2	2.1	3	0.57
My teacher sets high learning standards for the class.	28	0%	25%	68%	7%	2.18	2.3	2.2	2	0.55

# FEEDBACK SURVEYS

- Classroom
  - “Instant Student Feedback on Teacher Practices” Pilot Study
    - 40% response rate
- Key elements
  - Anonymity
  - Accessibility
  - Immediacy of responses
  - Flexibility

# SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT

- Roundtable/Forums
  - Random students
  - Policy Changes
  - Speak Up In a Box
- Student Board Members/  
Student Councils
  - Representation
  - Facilitation
  - Mission



# ROLE PROPOSAL

- Student voice on a state level
- Potential changes
  - More consistent interaction
  - Advise on more topics
- Maintain current role



# STUDENTS INVESTING IN THEIR EDUCATION

- Student voice
- Healthy competition
  - Engaged student body
- Finding the right balance
  - Cater to all levels of achievement

What defines our moment, right here, right now?

