The Power of Youth Voice in System Change

15th Annual New England Positive Behavior Support Forum
November 14 & 15, 2019

Who We Are...

- Kylee Rock, Senior at WRHS & Youth Leader
- Jayson Shevlin, Senior at WRHS & Youth Leader
- Kathy Francoeur, RENEW Trainer/MTSS-B Coach, Institute on Disability, UNH
- Matthew Jozokos, Acting Principal at WRHS

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Learning Objectives

Participants will be able to:

- Define authentic youth engagement
- Identify the importance of shared decision making with youth in the implementation of MTSS-B.
- Learn from examples of how youth voice impacts system change

“...the more youth begin to recognize that they have a voice, the more change is possible.”

~Usher

Youth Leadership

Turn and Talk

• What are you doing in your school/agency to promote authentic youth engagement?
Positive Youth Development Framework: 4 Domains

- Assets
- Agency
- Contribution
- Enabling Environment

Youth Voice and Leadership Throughout the Continuum

Prioritizing Youth Engagement

- Stakeholders (e.g., school boards, families, community organization leaders, politicians, youth) are actively involved in goal-setting and policy development.
- Stakeholders assist in disseminating information and accomplishments (e.g., website, newsletter, meeting presentations, conferences, media, annual progress reports).
- Leadership Team regularly (e.g., quarterly) uses two-way communication with other stakeholders (e.g., school boards, families, community organization leaders, politicians, youth) to solicit feedback on implementation progress and link to outcomes.

Youth Voice for the LENS of the TFI

- T1.1 Team Composition: Tier I team includes a Tier I systems coordinator, a school administrator, a family member, and individuals able to provide (a) applied behavioral expertise, (b) coaching expertise, (c) knowledge of student academic and behavior patterns, (d) knowledge about the operations of the school across grade levels and programs, and for high schools, (e) student representation.

Youth Voice for the LENS of the TFI

- T1.11 Student/Family/Community Involvement: Stakeholders (students, families, and community members) provide input on universal foundations (e.g., expectations, consequences, acknowledgements) at least every 12 months.

Youth Voice for the LENS of the TFI

- M1.5 Two-way student engagement in Tier I exists.
- T1.15 Annual Evaluation: Tier I team documents fidelity and effectiveness (including on academic outcomes) of Tier I practices at least annually (including year-by-year comparisons) that are shared with stakeholders (staff, families, community, district) in a usable format.
Who’s On Our MTSS Leadership Team?

- Administration
- General Education Classroom Teacher
  - Core teachers: Music, Science, Math, Language Arts, History, Social Studies
- Special Education Teacher
- Para Educator
- School Counselor
- Family Member
- Community Members

Our Mission

The Bear Pride Tier 1 Team exists to promote a positive school climate and culture for the WRHS community.

Youth Leaders as Team Members

- Move from things being "done to them" to "working with them";
- Allows messaging to be shared in more student friendly language;
- Giving students a voice in school priorities and reforms is an effective way to improve student outcomes (Mitra, 2006);
- Helps create a shift towards a more positive school climate (Mitra, 2003);
- Schools with a positive school culture are more effective (Engles et al, 2008);
- Student needs are heard & Prioritized;
- Builds student buy in.

YOUTH VOICE IN ACTION!

Chain Reaction Club 6:37- 8:25 Education Revolution
WRHS’ Journey

• Created a committed team
• Developed an action plan to align initiatives
• Growth mindset
• Identified visuals – which one do students and staff pay attention too?
• Quarterly Bear Pride Acknowledgments

We Believe that School Climate is...

Alignment of Bear Pride Expectations and Bear Habits

School-Wide Values and Expectations

Assessing Student’s Growth

Establishing Our Acknowledgement System
Communication with Faculty

- Developed staff survey on Bear Pride Expectations and Bear Habits to get staff feedback to language & alignment of documents
- Presented an MTSS-B overview to faculty this summer

Nearly 60 staff responded

"Student presentation was the best part!"
"I am on board and look forward to starting the work"
"When can we start using the matrix and rubric?"
"We need visuals of this in every classroom"
"How can contribute?"

Small Group Activity

- What were some the elements of youth leadership that stood out for you?
- How can some of these elements be integrated at your school?
- What are some of the examples of youth voice can you share from your school/agency?
- Why is developing youth leadership important?

Questions
Contact us for More Information

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