

SoundOut Professional Development Programs for Schools

SoundOut, a program of CommonAction, is a recognized national expert outreach program offering the several levels of professional development programs for public, private, charter and parochial K-12 school and agencies to support meaningful student involvement throughout education. Our programs are designed for classroom educators, support staff, building leaders, district and state administrators, and students themselves.



By modeling innovative approaches to making learning meaningful, CommonAction facilitators provide practical examples in research-driven sessions in each of our programs. Participants explore powerful examples, pragmatic considerations, critical reflections and essential tools focusing on applying meaningful student involvement in their particular educational setting.

Customized training is available, including sessions addressing specific skills, applications or populations. We also provide ongoing consultation and technical assistance programs, as well as evaluation services focused on meaningful student involvement.

Level One: Awareness

Meaningful Student Involvement provides a broad approach for educators to engage students as partners throughout education. In our Level One programs, CommonAction facilitators identify a range of opportunities, practical frameworks and learning connections for students in any grade level. We share our pilot projects and examine research findings from around the world. These programs generally include large numbers of people and require a short period of time, usually from 1 to 4 hours.



Expectations: Increase in participants' knowledge base or understanding about Meaningful Student Involvement, student voice and equity among learners.

Sample topics:

- Meaningful Student Involvement: Engaging students as partners throughout education
- More than Listening: The Cycle of Student Engagement
- Climbing the Ladder of Student Involvement
- Infusing Student Voice throughout Education
- Student Voice in School Improvement
- Re-imagining the Role of Students
- Discrimination Against Students in Schools

Level Two: Skill-Development

Engaging students as partners requires more than an excellent curriculum and wonderful artwork on the walls. Level Two programs introduce important skills that educators can integrate into teaching and leading classrooms and schools everyday. Our staff works with each site to customize our professional development programs to meet the needs of a particular learning environment or group. Time demands range from 6-8 hours for highly specific and isolated skills to 10-20 hours for more complex and integrated skills.



Expectations: Use of knowledge and skills in curriculum, instruction, leadership and assessment activities

Sample topics:

- How to Listen to Student Voice
- Creating Student/Adult Partnerships
- Overcoming Barriers to Meaningful Student Involvement
- Equity Among Students
- Assessments of Meaningful Student Involvement
- Addressing Adultism with Students

Level Three: Development, Design and Implementation

Focusing on design, these programs focus on applying the Cycle of Student Engagement through interactive, hands-on programs that include modeling, guided practice, self-and peer review, refinement, and reflection activities. Level Three programs help participants infuse Meaningful Student Involvement in curriculum, assessment, and programs throughout schools, and require between 40 and 100 hours.

Expectations: Design and use of Meaningful Student Involvement throughout curriculum, instruction, assessment and programs.

Sample topics:

- Strategic Planning for Meaningful Student Involvement in Classrooms
- Implementing Student-Inclusive Building Leadership
- Coaching Students as Partners in School Improvement
- Evaluating the Successes and Shortcomings of Meaningful Student Involvement

For more information

Contact the CommonAction office for more information about professional development, including topics, costs and scheduling.

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