

# Include Many Voices to Create Change

## Student Leadership



**RESPOND** to conversations that occur within your school and community by identifying problems people are having and what changes could make things better. Student leadership teams can identify and solve problems, especially when many voices are heard.



**PRESENT** your suggestions about forming student leadership teams and hearing others' ideas about what is needed and what could change. Discuss these questions:



Vivian M.

HOW WILL OUR STUDENT LEADERSHIP GROUPS BE RESPONSIVE TO MANY VOICES?

HOW CAN WE MAKE SURE TO BRING DEMOCRATIC PROCESSES TO THE LEADERSHIP TEAMS AND BE INCLUSIVE IN GATHERING IDEAS AND ASSIGNING ROLES?

SHOULD WE ORGANIZE OURSELVES INTO SEVERAL GROUPS, EACH FOCUSED ON A NEED OR CHALLENGE?

WHAT ARE SOME CHALLENGES AND UNMET NEEDS WITHIN IN OUR COMMUNITY?

Design a questionnaire or online survey to gather others' ideas. Consider a variety of needs and challenges that cover:

- **People and Relationships**, such as support, kindness, and empathy.
- **Indoor and Outdoor Environments**, such as health, nutrition, and safe play spaces.
- **Learning**, such as books, project supplies, tutoring, and computer access.
- **What else?**



**CREATE** a plan for organizing student leadership groups and the projects each group will address. Develop a timeframe and metrics to measure progress. Consider including in your plan:

- a mission statement that identifies the desired outcomes or changes;
- a launch event to announce what needs and challenges will be addressed;
- posters and informational advertisements to communicate the goals (in the building, on the school's website and to local media outlets); and
- collaboration with parents' and teachers' associations or other organizations that have similar goals.

PROGRESS TRACKING CHART

PROJECT:

GOAL:



**CONNECT** your initial ideas with what you learn along your student leadership journey. Design a **Progress Tracking Chart** that will visually communicate the ideas that were offered, the projects that are being worked on, and how much progress has been made. How will you make sure every student is included as a leader with opportunities to make suggestions and contribute expertise? Post your progress chart as an ever-present reminder of the leadership work being done by students.