What the Research Says

- Student voice - activities occurring in and out of schools
- Expression, performance, creativity, collaboration, co-creation
- Agency and student centered
Why is student voice important?

- Increased levels of motivation and engagement
- Higher academic achievement
- Greater classroom participation
- Self-reflection and preparation for improvement in at-risk students
- Decrease in behavioural problems
# Student Voice Activities – A Spectrum

## The Spectrum of Student Voice Oriented Activity

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expression</th>
<th>Consultation</th>
<th>Participation</th>
<th>Partnership</th>
<th>Activism</th>
<th>Leadership</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Volunteering opinions, creating art, celebrating, complaining, praising, objecting</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

- Most student voice activity in schools/classrooms resides at this end of the spectrum.
- The need for adults to share authority, demonstrate trust, protect against co-optation, learn from students, and handle disagreement increases from left to right.
- Students’ influence, responsibility, and decision-making roles increase from left to right.

*Motivation, Engagement, and Student Voice*, Eric Toshalis and Michael J. Nakkula
Effective Student Engagement – Essential Conditions

- Commitment to facilitating student voice
- Support from District and School Leadership and Teachers
- Changing processes and practices
- Taking Action
Are You Ready to Engage?

What are students saying?

Challenges

- Who do you need to hear from?
- Capacity and Time
Are You Ready to Engage?

- Preparedness / Training
- What is “student speak”?
- Methods of engagement
- Culture Shift
Implementation – What does it look like?

Speak Out – Alberta Student Engagement Initiative

- Minister’s Student Advisory Council
- Forums
- Website
- Conference
Resources

www.speakout.alberta.ca