Demystifying Systemic Social and Emotional Learning:

Student Voice & Engagement
Demystifying Systemic Social Emotional Learning: Student Voice and Engagement

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What comes to mind when you hear:

- Explicit SEL instruction
- SEL integrated with academic instruction
- Youth voice and engagement
- Supportive school and classroom climates
- Focus on adult SEL
- Supportive discipline
- A continuum of integrated supports
- Authentic family partnerships
- Aligned community partnerships
- Systems for continuous improvement
What comes to mind when you hear:

Youth voice and engagement?
Schoolwide SEL: Student Voice & Engagement
In Elementary Grades:

- Engage all students in creating **shared agreements** for the classroom
- Give all students opportunities to **lead** and participate morning meetings
- Create opportunities for all students to practice asking and answering **questions**
- Teach students strategies for asking for or offering **help**
- Ask students to provide **feedback** on lessons
- Involve students in parent-teacher **conferences**
In Middle School:

- **Survey** students regularly on classroom instruction and management
- Use **instructional practices** such as project-based learning that gives students opportunities to actively engage in real-world problem solving
- Include students as full **members** on SEL teams or other school improvement teams
- Involve students in owning and leading **disciplinary processes**, such as through restorative practices
In High School:

- Provide opportunities, such as through Youth Participatory Action Research, for students to examine and lead research on topics that matter to them
- Give students opportunities to facilitate teacher professional learning
- Include students on leadership committees such as the SEL team, school board, and hiring committees

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Educators can honor and elevate a broad range of student perspectives and experiences by engaging students as leaders, problem solvers, and decision-makers in their own learning and classroom experiences, as well school- and districtwide.

Youth voice opportunities can be provided at all grade levels.
**Key Takeaways**

**Policymakers** can provide guidance, resources, and support for evidence-based approaches that elevate youth voice.

**Partnering with students in reviewing data** is a strong mechanism in engaging in authentic and data-informed student voice efforts.
Key Takeaways

Student leadership both in classrooms and school-wide can allow for meaningful conversations about complex topics that students want to see changed.