

VOICE CIRCLE MENU OF POSSIBILITIES

PARTICIPANTS (Honored Guests):

- a. **Student/Scholar** – Student focused gathering based on a data point, authentic wondering, or any topic related to learning from our scholars. Action planning is an expected outcome. Examples: Use as an opportunity to capture solutions based on climate, attendance, instruction, etc.
- b. **Parent/Guardian or Community** – Gathering based on problem-solving on a topic of concern. Examples: Parent/guardian or community safety topic, emergency preparedness, topic based on a survey or community concern.
- c. **Staff** – Gathering with staff members to gather feedback on specific topics. Examples: Consider holding a Voice Circle with bus drivers, attendance clerks, or paraeducators as they provide excellent, often untapped insight.

MENU of VOICE CIRCLES:

- a. **Attendance** - Designed to explore the root cause of attendance related barriers. They typically surface issues regarding equity. Participants: Students, Community, Parents/Guardians, Staff, and/or Attendance Clerks.
- b. **Pay it Forward**- End of the year, quarter, semester gathering designed to reflect on learning and inform the future. Examples: Specific grade levels gather prior to transitioning to new school environment to inform the school staff on possible improvements.
- c. **Feedback Loop** -An opportunity to bring forth several issues, thoughts, ideas in a small group setting. Topics are placed at different tables and guests can spend time at tables of choice. Topics can be chosen ahead of time through a brief survey. Examples: A variety of topics such as homework, standards-based grading, school activities, calendar adoptions, mental health support, etc.
- d. **Partners in Improvement**-Gathering specifically designed for continuous improvement efforts. Data (contextual, perceptual, achievement, demographic) are used to paint a portion of the picture with guests providing the complete picture (the “other” data) regarding current reality and next steps. Action planning is an outcome. Examples: School Improvement, progress monitoring checks. Partnering with student groups who are typically not the voices at the table, is critically important.
- e. **Disrupting the Single Story**: A gathering designed to provide a safe space for participants to share their stories and experiences. By listening and learning, assumptions surface that can be discussed, plans can be developed, and actions designed to address the new learning. Examples: Provide a safe space to truly listen to the stories of a school or of a community. Focus on providing the space for historically marginalized populations to share their experiences. “The Danger of the Single Story” video is an excellent way to begin the time together. It will lead you to discuss the single stories that exist and what we can and should do to disrupt them.
- f. **Focused**- Gathering designed for specific topic or content to capture the expertise of the guests. Examples: Curriculum Adoptions, Behavior Support, Social-Emotional, etc.
- g. **Scholar or Student**-Gathering designed to provide a safe space for students to provide feedback and to partner with adults to improve the school experience. Action planning is an outcome. Examples: Feedback on specific topics, data source, student generated topics, etc.

Any of the gatherings noted can be taken to an online format