

“Meaningful Student Involvement”

Improving School Climate thru Coordinated School Health

Purpose:

To engage students in meaningful involvement in their school reform effort by creating opportunities for students to assess school need, envision and lead improvement projects, and advise and advocate adult educators to create positive school change.

Unique contribution:

- 1) Facilitates youth and adult partnerships
- 2) Develops the 21st Century skills of youth
- 3) Strengthens adult practices in positive youth development
- 4) Builds the capacity of schools to include student participation in their efforts across the S3 Interventions.

Critical Components of the Programmatic Intervention:

The NEED that is addressed thru this intervention is: schools rarely involve students in their reform efforts. However, research indicates that students have unique and valuable knowledge and experiences and that effective change requires student buy-in to create change. Furthermore, students are producers of the school outcomes and must have a greater share in the process.

Some indicators of this NEED are:

- Students lack sufficient investment in their school reform efforts.
- MiPHY survey identifies that students want to increase their voice in their schools.
- Past school reform efforts demonstrate limited roles for students in creating change.

The CRITICAL Components of this intervention are:

- A *2-day Institute* to foster a community of students and adults to assess their school reform efforts for ways students can effect positive change.
- A *participatory research project* to support youth to understand school issues and identify strategies for school change.
- *Coaching* to support students in strategic planning and reflection, facilitating meetings and projects, and engaging in activities to develop and grow a student advisory council.
- *Consultation and training* to observe meetings and offer feedback, engage students in leadership roles, and support the development of an advisory structure.
- A *summit* for school teams to share their success, increase leadership skills and adult advisory capacity, and develop structures for sustainable student advisory

Visions of this in Action – Students are meaningfully involved in school reform efforts. Students participate in improving school climate, advising on curricular issues, contributing to policy decisions, and communicating positive school change to the broader community. There is a sustainable student advisory council to support ongoing student voice in school leadership and change. Students have positive relationships with adults who recognize students as competent and as resources to support positive school change.