



Milwaukee Community Schools Partnership | Youth Council Strategy

Document will help guide the development and implementation of a Youth Council within your respective school building.

Name:

The name of the group will be SCHOOL NAME Youth Council. If there are existing or additional Leadership Groups in your building; making sure that the entire school community is able to distinguish the purpose and functions of this group.

Purpose:

Include & engage students, our largest stakeholder group, in the process for school transformation

Responsibilities:

STUDENTS IN YOUTH COUNCIL WILL...

1. Serve as a council to discuss student data, concerns, develop and work towards solutions to these concerns, as well as student driven initiatives.
2. Partner with school administration, staff, families, community partners, and residents in the process of school transformation.
3. Increase student involvement in the school decision making processes, community, and across the Milwaukee Community Schools Partnership.

Qualifications & Expectations

1. Youth Council Members must have their family informed of their participation in Youth Council to ensure permission to engage and attend activities and meetings as being a Youth Council member not only carries unique responsibilities we also want families to be aware and proud of their child's participation.
2. Youth council members must be committed to attending all meetings and scheduled activities. If a student is unable to attend; proactive communication to the Coordinator and other student leaders is expected.
3. Youth Council Members must be committed to serve in all areas as needed.



4. Youth Council Members are committed to working towards becoming productive members of their school community.

Student Council Body

1. The Youth Council will serve as its own student group and should serve to engage students in the Community School Model. Students from other clubs are welcome to join the Youth Council, but the Youth Council should not simply be a name that is tossed on an existing student group.
2. The Youth Council will be composed of student representatives of the overall student body. Students should represent all age, cultural, ethnic, sex, gender, ability, and language groups. No student will be rejected membership due to age, sex, gender, culture, ethnicity, ability, or language.
3. Youth Council membership will not be tied to academic standing. Council body will, when possible, strive to represent equal thirds demographics of the school population based on academic as well as behavior. (1/3 high achieving, 1/3 average, 1/3 students in need of additional academic supports) (1/3 no suspensions or referrals, 1/3 some suspensions or referrals, 1/3 multiple suspensions or referrals)
4. A minimum of 2 students will participate on the Community School Leadership Team on a monthly basis to share student perspectives as well as discuss Youth Council initiatives.

Participate Expectations:

1. Attend all Youth Council meetings as well as scheduled activities.
2. Communicate to other council members when obstacles arise and prevent you from engaging in council meetings/activities.
3. Engage with other students to collect concerns, provide feedback and create change.
4. A minimum of 2 students will participate on the Community School Leadership Team on a monthly basis to share student perspectives as well as discuss Youth Council initiatives.
5. Youth Council members must be working toward meeting all graduation requirements.
6. Youth Council members must avoid suspensions or referrals while on the youth council. If infraction occurs a conversation between member and advisor must occur to discuss the matter.



Youth Council Roles:

1. Meeting Lead: Council members will conduct the meeting as listed on the agenda developed by their peers. If other topics arise it is their responsibility to address them as deemed fit.
2. Note taker: Council members will take notes on the meeting. Notes should include discussions, concerns, proposed solutions, proposed changes as well as next steps for the next meeting. Notes must be shared with all council members after the meeting has concluded.
3. Agenda Development team: Council members will be responsible for collecting discussion points from other members, developing meeting agendas as well as sharing out agendas prior to the youth council meeting.
4. Community School Leadership Team Representatives: A minimum of 2 members will attend CSLT meetings with the purpose of engaging in conversation to share student perspectives as well as report out on Youth Council initiatives. They will report back to the Youth Council at the next meeting.
5. Principal/Administration Contact: Council Member is responsible for handing Youth Council minutes as well as Student Discipline Council notes to the principal after each meeting. They will also be responsible for ensuring the principal has access to these minutes/notes prior to Youth Council meetings with the principal.
6. Morning Announcements: Council Member is responsible for delivering school-wide morning announcements.

Meetings

1. Youth Council meetings will occur during the school day.
2. Youth Council meetings will occur a minimum of twice a month. (September through April for highschools) (October through May for k-8s)
3. Additional meetings and activities (example: field trips) may occur.
4. One meeting a month will focus on reviewing student behavioral data and providing feedback and the other will focus on Youth Council priorities and action plans.



School Responsibilities:

1. Providing time and space for meetings
2. Communicating student statuses
3. Engaging students in joining the youth council
4. Recognize the youth council as the student voice representatives
5. Excuse students for youth council activities and meetings. (Attendance engaged in youth council activities should not be marked absent)

Administration roles:

1. Sharing information with students around behavior and attendance
2. Meeting monthly with youth council to discuss student as well as school concerns and initiatives
3. Provide funding for youth leadership activities
4. Recognize the youth council as the student voice representatives