Enhancing Student Leadership Opportunities at the High School Level

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Major Activities

Ensure that all students have access to a **range of extracurricular, co-curricular, or leadership activities** that meet their individual interests and needs, including clubs, sports teams, service organizations, and student government.

Indicators of Success

Complete a **thorough analysis** of existing student leadership opportunities at the high school level by December 1, 2024, and present an **action plan to enhance opportunities** for students on December 17, 2024.

Research on Leadership and Connectedness

"Leadership is not about personality; it's about behavior—an observable set of skills and abilities." (Kouzes & Posner, 2023)

In 2003, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, and the University of Minnesota synthesized student engagement, school climate, children's mental health, peer bonding, and student-teacher relationships.

"Various strands of research all point to the same overarching conclusion: Students are more likely to succeed when they feel connected to school." (USCDC, 2003).

"School connectedness has a powerful influence on students' academic success, well-being, and long-term outcomes. When students feel valued, supported by teachers and peers, and engaged in school activities, they show higher attendance, academic performance, and better mental health." (Balfanz, R., et al., 2024)

High Schools

"If it is 2:30 and you don't have somewhere to go within the school for a club, sport, or activity, you are missing out!"

"The second half of the school day begins at 2:30."
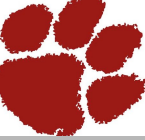
"You get out of High School what you put into it!"

"Clubs meet during the school day too, in case you have to go home to get siblings off the bus!"

Spoken at any Orientation Session, Open House or Shadow Day: "Get involved!"

High Schools

STUDENT **CLUBS** AND **ORGANIZATIONS**

Make a Difference

Get Involved!

Anyone can start a club… All you need are a few students, and an adult willing to supervise/advise!

High Schools

Categories of Clubs/Activities
- Student Government
- Honor Societies
- Publications
- Drama Activities
- Musical Organizations
- National Organizations
- Cultural Clubs
- Special Interest Clubs/Events

West: 8 new clubs added with one in the works!

East: 4 new clubs added with nine in the works!

High Schools

Numbers participating in clubs and activities = 2900 students at West and 4905 students at East!

Notable Clubs/Activities:

- Various Student Government groups
- Peer Tutoring
- Community Service groups
- Music Program (Band/Choral/Orchestral groups; Marching Band)
- No Place for Hate and cultural clubs
- Theater program
- Internship program - shadowing experiences (West)
- Publications: Newspaper, Literary Magazine, Yearbook
- Gaming and other special interest clubs

High Schools

- Clubs have their own organizational structure and leadership opportunities can be created within each one that suits the needs of the group.
  - Class Governments
  - Principal's Advisory Group
  - Student Board of Education Representatives

High Schools

East

West

28	Varsity Teams	30
15	JV Teams	15
12	Frosh Teams	12

High Schools

SPORTS PARTICIPATION

East		West
435	Fall Season	387
373	Winter Season	369
469	Spring Season	404

High Schools

- **Student involvement**
  - Participants - growth and development of self and team
  - Captains (appointed by coach, or voted on by team)
    - Liaison between team, coaches and players, and team and officials
    - Handle situations within the team
    - Positive role models for younger players
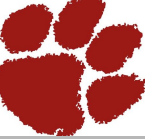- **Positive Coaching Alliance**
  - Workshop attendance each season, chosen by coaches
  - Help athletes become leaders
    - Positive is Powerful
- **Athletes Against Bullying (West)**
  - Provide presentations for other district schools
- **Athletic Leadership Council (East)**
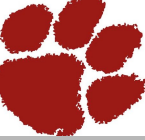 - Provide opportunities for student voice within the athletic department

High Schools

- Students are asked about their involvement in high school sports/activities during the following times:
  - Guidance meetings
  - IEP/504 meetings
  - Discipline meetings in the Grade Level Office
  - Meetings with Grade Level Principal
  - Meetings with the Principal
  - 9th grade Mentor meetings
  - Peer Leaders during 9th grade homeroom visits
  - Informal conversations with any adult staff member

High Schools

There is at least ONE thing for every student in our schools to be involved in! If not, they can create their own club/activity!

Coles Program

Relationships

Student Induction Process

Tour, handbook, process/ systems, core values

Success and support planning
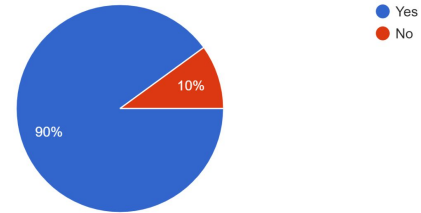
Success Center

Sense of Belonging

Student Voice

Community Trips

Wellness Initiatives

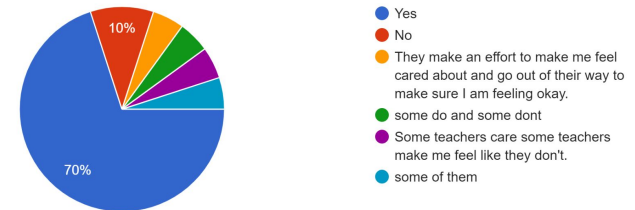Do you believe the teachers and staff at school make an effort to get to know you and build a relationship with you?
20 responses

- Yes
- No

90%
10%

Do you feel the teachers and staff care about your safety and well being?
20 responses

- Yes
- No
- They make an effort to make me feel cared about and go out of their way to make sure I am feeling okay.
- some do and some dont
- Some teachers care some teachers make me feel like they don't.
- some of them

70%
10%

Coles Program

Access

- Lunch
- After school clubs activities, sports
- Academic classes
- Enhanced facilities
- New partnerships
- Internships- DVR
- College Connection Plans

Trends

- Increase in participation in clubs (33% Q1)
- Increase in participation in sports (management/ participation) (15%, Q1)
- Increase in academic performance (66%, Q1)
- Increase attendance at school functions (62%)
- Decrease in discipline referrals
-

Goals

- Increase participation in theater, music and other clubs
- Increase interest in attending school functions
- Increase the partnership between families, providers and the school that impact post secondary opportunities

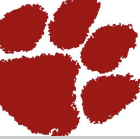# Action Plan to Enhance Opportunities

Goal

- Increase student participation in extracurricular, co-curricular, or leadership activities by 5%

Address barriers to participation to ensure that all students have equitable access to these opportunities:

- Financial constraints
- Transportation
- Scheduling conflicts
- Appropriate Supports

Action Plan to Enhance Opportunities

- Strategic Planning
  - Surveys
- Portrait of a Graduate
  - Focus Groups
- Superintendent's' Advisory Council
  - Reimagining High Schools
  - Community-wide Service Learning
  - Artificial Intelligence Policy
- Pathways Programs
  - New Business Partners, Increased Internship Potential
- Post-Secondary Partnerships
  - Expansion of Dual Credit / Enrollment

QUESTIONS?