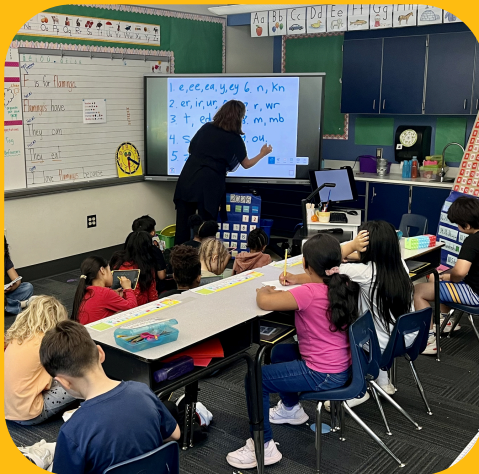




Tukwila
SCHOOL DISTRICT
a world of possibility

2025-2026 SCHOLAR VOICE ANNUAL REPORT



**Rooted in
Scholar Voice**
Growing a District Where Every
Scholar Shapes the Future



Prepared by
2025-2026 Superintendent's
Student Advisory Board



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



Why This Report Matters

During the 2025–2026 school year, Tukwila School District expanded opportunities for scholars to share their experiences, influence decisions, and help shape the future of learning.

Scholar voice was gathered through:

- Superintendent's Student Advisory Board (SSAB)
- Race & Equity Student Teams
- Student Opinion Survey
- Identity Safety Conversations
- ASB Leadership Engagement
- Foster High School Civics Advocacy Projects
- Portrait of a Graduate Engagement
- District Climate Survey

Together, these efforts engaged hundreds of scholars and created multiple pathways for participation and leadership.

What We Learned

Across all engagement opportunities, scholars consistently identified six priorities:

- Belonging
- Relationships
- Safety & Well-Being
- Representation & Identity
- Future Readiness
- Meaningful Voice

These themes continue to serve as guideposts for district improvement and are reflected throughout Tukwila's Portrait of a Graduate.

Research Connection

Educational researchers Jean Rudduck and Michael Fielding found that schools improve when students move from being recipients of decisions to partners in shaping them.

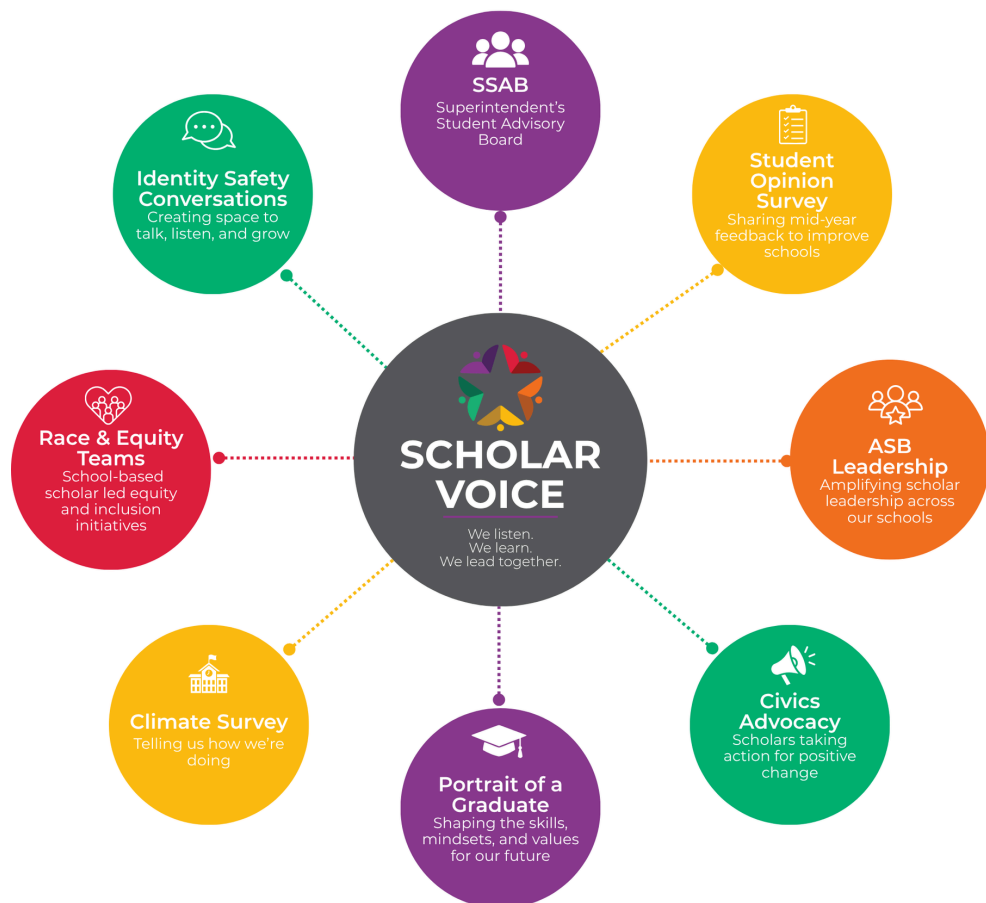
This year, Tukwila scholars did exactly that.

HOW WE LISTENED

Building a Scholar Voice Ecosystem

Scholar voice in Tukwila is no longer limited to one committee or one survey.

Throughout 2025–2026, scholars shared their experiences through multiple opportunities for engagement.



Why Multiple Pathways Matter

Not every scholar wants to participate in the same way.
Some lead through advisory groups.
Some participate in surveys.
Some advocate through civic engagement.
Some contribute through school-based leadership teams.
Creating multiple opportunities ensures that scholar voice reflects the diversity of experiences across Tukwila.

WHAT SCHOLARS TOLD US

Six Themes Emerged Across All Engagement Efforts



Scholar Voices

"We want schools where everyone feels like they belong and where their culture and identity are respected."

"Students should not first encounter guidance about applications, financial aid, or career exploration just months before graduation."

"When students are worried about how they are going to get home safely, it adds unnecessary stress to their day."

WHAT RESEARCH TELLS US

Scholar Perspectives Align with Educational Research



STUDENT VOICE & AGENCY

Scholars are more engaged when they are partners in improving schools rather than passive recipients of decisions.



BELONGING & SCHOOL CLIMATE

Strong relationships and inclusive environments improve both learning and wellbeing.



STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

Schools with stronger scholar voice and teacher care experience higher levels of engagement.



RELATIONSHIPS MATTER

Teacher-scholar relationships are among the strongest influences on scholar achievement.



CIVIC LEADERSHIP

Opportunities for civic participation strengthen belonging, agency, and community engagement.



Reflection for Educators

Consider:

- How often do scholars provide feedback?
- How often do scholars influence decisions?
- How often do scholars help design solutions?



SCHOLAR VOICE IN ACTION

SCHOLARS AS LEADERS

Throughout the year, scholars demonstrated leadership through action.



SSAB

Members identified priorities including:

- Mental health and wellness
- Belonging and inclusion
- Representation
- Course offerings
- Extracurricular opportunities
- Scholar voice in decision-making

Members also reflected on how to improve representation and participation in future years.



Race & Equity Teams

Race & Equity Teams expanded scholar leadership opportunities across schools through elections, collaboration, and school-based initiatives focused on belonging, identity, and equity.



Civic Engagement

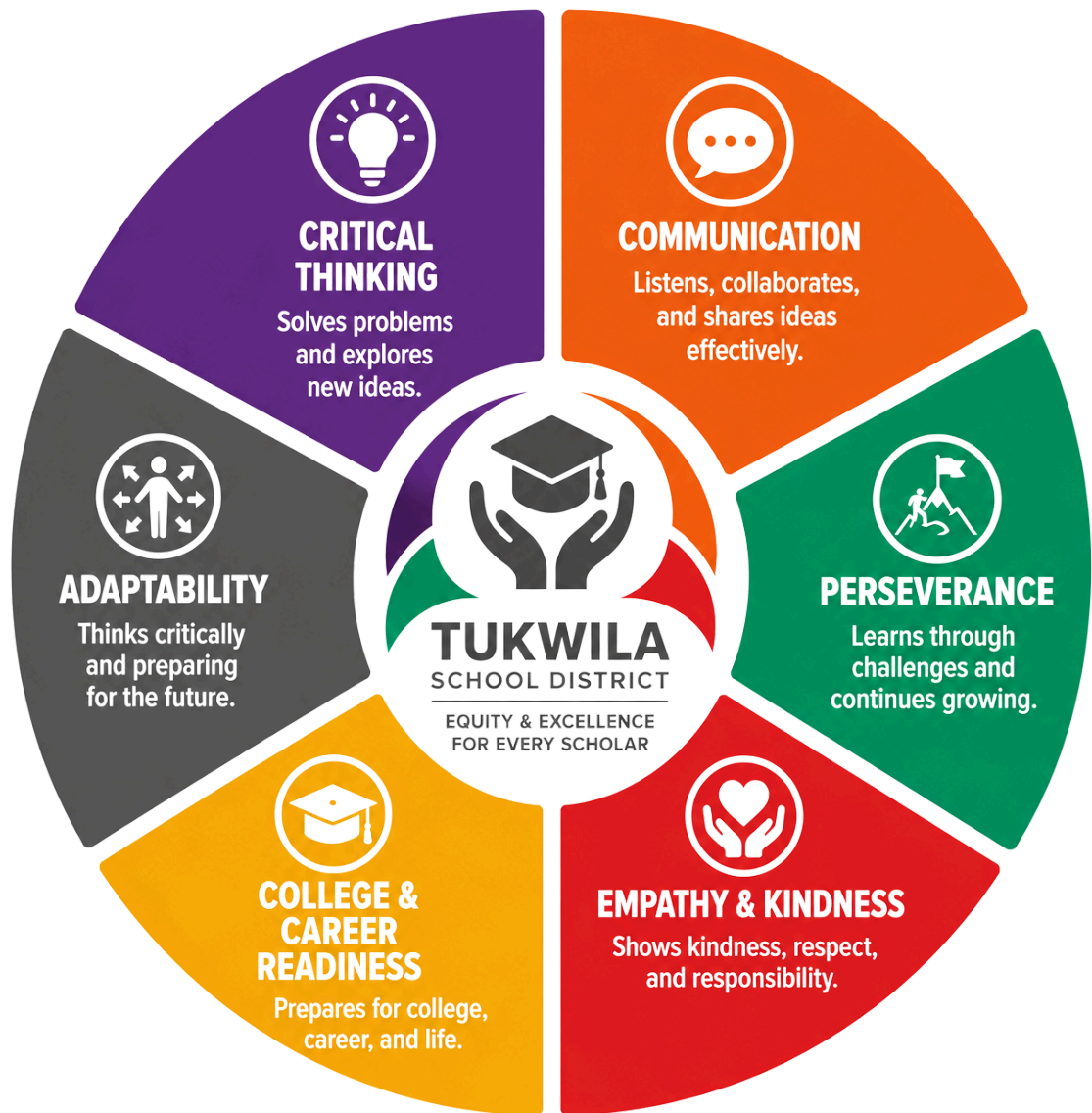
Foster High School scholars researched community issues and wrote advocacy letters addressing:

- School safety
- Transportation
- College readiness
- Mental health
- Equity
- Opportunity

These efforts demonstrated that scholar voice is not simply feedback—it is leadership.

FROM VOICE TO VISION

THE PORTRAIT OF A GRADUATE



Why It Matters

The Portrait of a Graduate is more than a framework.
It is a shared commitment to the skills, mindsets, and experiences every scholar deserves.



WHAT THIS MEANS FOR EDUCATORS

EVERYDAY PRACTICES THAT SUPPORT SCHOLAR SUCCESS

To Increase Belonging

- Learn every scholar's preferred name
- Greet scholars at the door
- Build classroom community intentionally
- Celebrate diverse identities and experiences

To Increase Scholar Voice

- Gather regular feedback
- Offer meaningful choices
- Include scholars in problem-solving
- Invite co-design whenever possible

To Strengthen Relationships

- Listen before responding
- Show empathy and flexibility
- Follow up when scholars need support
- Focus on connection before correction

To Build Future Readiness

- Connect learning to real-world applications
- Promote collaboration and communication
- Encourage critical thinking
- Help scholars see pathways beyond graduation

Reflection Question

How does my classroom help scholars develop the competencies described in the Portrait of a Graduate?



PRIORITIES FOR 2026-2027

WHERE WE GO NEXT

Priority 1

Strengthen Belonging and Identity Safety

Actions:

- Expand scholar leadership opportunities
- Continue identity safety conversations
- Strengthen inclusive school practices

Priority 2

Increase Scholar Partnership

Actions:

- Redesign and strengthen SSAB
- Increase representation across schools
- Create stronger feedback loops

Priority 3

Expand Future Readiness

Actions:

- Increase access to college and career preparation
- Explore financial literacy and life skills opportunities
- Strengthen community partnerships

Priority 4

Bring the Portrait of a Graduate to Life

Actions:

- Integrate competencies into instruction
- Create common language across schools
- Provide opportunities for scholars to practice leadership and agency



Success Measures

By this time next year, we will ask:

- Do scholars feel they belong?
- Do scholars feel heard?
- Do scholars see themselves reflected?
- Are scholars prepared for the future?
- Are scholar voices influencing decisions?

LOOKING AHEAD



From Voice to Vision

Throughout the 2025–2026 school year, scholars shared their experiences, challenged assumptions, identified opportunities for improvement, and helped define a vision for the future.

Their voices shaped conversations about:

- Belonging
- Identity
- Safety
- Opportunity
- Learning
- Leadership

Most importantly, scholars reminded us that education works best when it is done with students, not merely for them.

As we move into 2026–2027, our work is clear:

Continue listening.

Continue learning.

Continue leading together.

Closing Quote

"The future of Tukwila is not something we build for scholars. It is something we build alongside them."



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THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone who contributed their voices, experiences, and ideas to this year's learning and engagement efforts. Your partnership has helped strengthen our shared vision for a district where scholars are rooted in community, flourishing in diversity, and prepared for the future. Together, we will continue creating a World of Possibility where every scholar is known, valued, and empowered to shape what comes next.

