

Break-out Sessions

Modeling that **students are central to school improvement efforts**, our sessions will be facilitated by students with adult support. Each session will discuss how their efforts are contributing to Washoe County School District's goal of "90 by 20", a 90% graduation rate by the year 2020.

Sessions will be interactive and attendees will discuss their ideas and questions with one another; **student-to-student & student-to-staff**. The convening is an opportunity for students to voice their thoughts on how to improve their schools, while teachers and administrators listen and act based on those thoughts.

2017 Strength in Voices - March 3, 2017 Session Descriptions

Session #1 – Stories Of Student Resiliency: How I Got Through Tough

Times

Students will explore what resiliency is: the ability to ‘bounce back’ by experiencing difficulties but making it through to the other side. “There’s always a storm before you see a rainbow.” Students will gain an understanding of the Children in Transition program. We will then move onto student panel stories and experiences. The session will conclude with an interactive activity for participants to express things they can do to improve their own resilience.

Student Facilitators: Kylie Baker, Trinity Rober and Giovanni Arellano Amaya

Adult Facilitators: Katie Morales and Rechelle Murillo

Session #2 - Pivot Questionnaire Technology

This session will immerse you in the technology of Pivot and what it has done across the world. The 8 question questionnaire will allow you to express your ideas and to learn about others’ opinions on life. You will leave inspired, motivated and determined to learn these steps to make your own video, then to share with others!

Student Facilitators: Juan Pablo Parra, Toakase Pukete, David Miller, Briley Hatfield, Dany Gomez and Jair Macias

Adult Facilitators: Jay Salter and Tyler Post

Session #3 – A Closer Look at Poverty In Our Community & Schools

This session presents students’ real-life experiences to help define the meaning of poverty and its prevalence in Washoe County School District. Its purpose is to create an awareness of obstacles students in poverty may face, as well as how these hardships may affect them in their home and school environments. In this interactive session you will learn how poverty is measured and how resilient our students living in poverty are on the pathway to graduation.

Student Facilitators: Joko Cailles, Madi Quigley and Jonah Yoelin

Adult Facilitators: Amanda Higgins, JT Stark and Norma Velasquez-Bryant

Session #4 – Bullying And Mental Health

This session will discuss the effects of being a victim, witness, or perpetrator of bullying. After a brief presentation regarding academic research associated with bullying, data from Washoe County High School students will be presented to initiate discussion and a group activity that illustrates the long term effects of bullying.

Student Facilitators: Nicole Fierro and Anthony Skelton

Adult Facilitator: Joshua Padilla

Session #5 – Inclusion Is More Than Just A Word

This session delves into what inclusion looks like from the perspectives of students with disabilities, general education students, and parents of students with disabilities. Students and parents describe successes and challenges of inclusion and how student voice could lead to better outcomes for students with disabilities. There will be an opportunity for participants to consider how they can help integrate student voice to create inclusive environments in their schools.

Student Facilitators: AJ Ortiz, Sophia Ortiz and Abbe Thorkildson

Adult Facilitator: Diane Thorkildson and Cyndy Gustafson

Session #6 – Why Is This ‘teenager thing’ So Hard?! Getting SMART About Stress.

Being a teenager is hard! The balance between school, family, relationships, and personal interests can be so challenging. Teenagers have big dreams but often feel so overwhelmed by stress that they need a little extra help staying focused. In this session, participants will learn how to break down stress and make it more manageable. Participants will engage in hands-on activities and group discussions to identify stressors they experience in their lives and then set appropriate SMART goals for a better pathway to their future.

Student Facilitator: Tierra Guerrero and Kiara Velasquez

Adult Facilitators: Michelle Hammond and Micaela Gerardin-Frey

Session: #7 – Discover Your True Color

Each of us has a different and unique personality; however, there are commonalities that we share. True Colors is an attempt to identify various personality styles and label them with colors. Everyone has some degree of each color, but one color is predominant. Once you learn your color and that of your peers you will have a better understanding of why they behave the way they do!

Student Facilitator: Quinn Shaffer

Adult Facilitators: Trish Shaffer and Erin Dawson

Session #8 - How To KNOT Exclude Students: Creating Opportunities To Support Our Peers

In this session, students will learn more about their peer groups and the challenges they sometimes face. Students will engage in a culminating activity to create student-led inclusive strategies to support their peers in school when obstacles emerge. Student groups to be described include students who are learning English, who are living in poverty, who are gifted and talented, and who have disabilities.

Student Facilitators: Ben Reynolds, Yuki Iyagi and Kierra Capurro

Adult Facilitator: Jennifer Harris and Kyle Kemp

Session: #9 – Student Climate Survey Results: What Do 22,000 WCSD Students Actually Think of School?

Did you know only 53% of high school students think that school is interesting? How many students do you think drank alcohol in the past 30 days? Come find out in this session! Participants will see the results of the Annual Student Climate Survey that students take in the spring. Then students will work together to solve some of the major issues the Climate Survey results uncover, including student drug and alcohol abuse, teacher work stress, and declines in school satisfaction from elementary to high school. Come help make our schools safer and more welcoming for all students!

Student Facilitators: Kaydi Deutsch, Leia Lagman and Mariana Galvin

Adult Facilitator: Laura Davidson, Marisa Crowder and Randal Brown

Session #10 – Student Centered Learning with Technology: Knowledge is Power; Creativity is Contagious!

In this session we explore how students are using and controlling technology to create learning, construct knowledge, and make connections, collaborate, real-world problem solving and self-regulation while becoming skilled communicators.

Student Facilitator: Salvador Maldonado, Josiah Shaw, Amanda Beaton, Isaiah Rea Martinez, Zach Highline, Nathan Parkyn and Anthony Estrada

Adult Facilitator: Mr. Gardner and David Ewart

Session #11 – Fish out of Water

This session will explore experiences of those who don't fit in the mainstream culture, often due to sexual orientation, gender identity, ableness, income level, or ethnicity. We will discuss tools of code switching, and code sharing to create an inclusive and welcoming environment for all students while respecting their experiences.

Student Facilitator: Maura Lopez

Adult Facilitator: Tiffany Young
