

## Alternate Options for Participatory Budgeting

Beginning in the 2019-20 school year, all Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI) schools will be required to implement a Participatory Budgeting Process **or provide opportunities for parent and student engagement** in a manner prescribed by the Commissioner.

Below are options for LEAs to select from as an alternative to Participatory Budgeting. These options were identified because they build on essential components of Participatory Budgeting: expanding stakeholder voice, providing opportunities to practice democracy, and promoting civic engagement.

For each of these options, additional guidance, included protocols outlining implementation expectations, would be provided.

LEAs would select ONE option from the choices below:

### Alternatives Connected to Expanding Student and Parent Voice

1. **School Focus Groups** – The school will convene a focus group of students once every two months and a focus group of parents in alternating months, so that the school hosts a focus group once a month. NYSED will develop protocols to guide the selection of group members and the operation of these focus groups. Guidance will also include what schools must do with the information learned. The students and parents selected shall be representative of the school's population and include individuals that have not been involved with existing school-based decision-making entities, such as the School Leadership Team or student government.
2. **Climate Survey Inquiry Team** – The school must develop a Climate Survey Inquiry Team consisting of parents and students, to identify root causes for issues that received low responses on the parent and student School Climate Surveys and develop specific actions to be taken to address these root causes. NYSED will specify parameters for these teams. The students and parents selected shall be representative of the school's population and include individuals that have not been involved with existing school-based decision-making entities, such as the School Leadership Team or student government.
3. **Ongoing School Surveys** – The school must conduct computer-based surveys with students on between five to ten indicators quarterly on indicators identified by the school and offer climate surveys to parents at both the beginning and end of the year so that progress on the indicators can be identified. Following the initial survey, the school must share the survey results with parents and staff and identify goals for the end of the year survey based on the initial survey results.

### Alternatives Connected to Providing Opportunities to Promote and Practice Democracy

4. **Schoolwide Voting** – The school must conduct at least three schoolwide votes on issues/topics of interest with students. As part of this, students will have opportunities to consider the issues to inform how they vote. The school must conduct at least one schoolwide vote with families on issues/topics of interest. The school will abide by the votes cast.

### Alternatives Connected to Providing Opportunities to Promote Civic Engagement

5. **Student Civic Engagement Activities** – The school must provide a series of activities to promote active civic engagement among its middle and high school students and community. These

activities shall include multiple events that promote an exchange of ideas between locally elected officials, students, and the families. Any high school pursuing this option must also commit to providing a voter registration table, staffed by school personnel, during the 12<sup>th</sup> grade students' lunch for one week and during at least one evening event.