Schoolwide Voting Guide

Overview

All Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI) schools will be required to implement CSI Engagement Options annually.

This option requires schools to host at least three schoolwide votes on issues/topics of interest with students. Additionally, schools must conduct at least one schoolwide vote with families on issues/topics of interest.
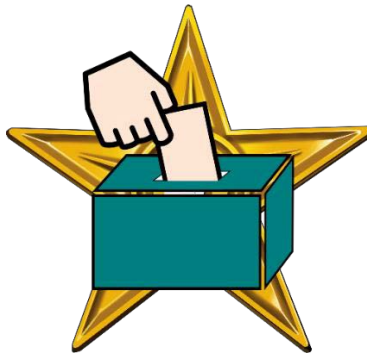
The school must abide by the votes cast.

Purpose

This guidebook is designed to support schools host schoolwide voting for students and families.

Hosting schoolwide voting is great for:

☐ Bringing students and families into decision making
☐ Demonstrate that the opinions of students and families matter
☐ Teaching the democratic voting process

Requirements

☐ A **minimum of three votes for students** during the school year.

☐ A **minimum of one vote for families** during the school year.

☐ Students will have opportunities to consider the issues/topics to inform how they vote.

Selecting Voting Topics

The topics for your schoolwide votes should be school-specific since those will resonate most with students and families.

Guidance:

☐ The questions identified for vote should not have an obvious answer.
☐ The school should consider identifying questions that have more than one answer.
☐ The questions put to a vote should be of enough importance to students and families that they will have an interest in voting and have an interest in the results.
☐ The questions put to a vote should be items that the school will defer to the judgment of students and/or parents to decide.
☐ When applicable, the school should incorporate the existing student government to determine the best questions to ask.
☐ The questions put to a vote should not be items that typically are decided by existing policy-making and decision-making bodies.

<u>Online Poll Options</u>

There are several free online sources for creating polls for students and parents to use when casting their votes. Below are suggested free online platforms; there are several more platforms that can researched and utilized.

Create poll using SurveyMonkey:
- ☐ https://www.surveymonkey.com/mp/online-polls/

Create poll using Google Forms:
- ☐ https://support.google.com/surveys/answer/2372144?hl=en

Create poll using DirectPoll:
- ☐ https://directpoll.com

FAQs for Schoolwide Voting

1. ***How are topics chosen?***

School leaders and/or the staff person coordinating the voting process will select a topic or issue that is of interest to the school community.

2. ***Does the vote need to be by computer?***

No. Schools may choose paper ballots or an online voting system.

3. ***Can I offer students three votes on the same day, or does this need to occur across three different days?***

It is the discretion of the school/district to determine how best to organize the voting process. Schools would be able to offer all three votes on the same day, but schools proceeding in this manner should be sure that students are still presented with reasons for and against voting certain ways so that they can make an informed decision.

4. ***Can the school do something different than what the voting results concluded?***

The topic or issue must be voted upon by the school community and the school must abide by the votes cast. The school should not void or disregard the voted decision to do something in opposition of the vote.