



Authentic Student Voice in School Governance

Association of Washington Student Leaders

A well-rounded, high-quality civic learning experience includes Student Participation in School Governance. The Association of Washington Student Leaders (AWSL) actively partners with school principals to provide authentic, school-wide student voice to support and increase the academic and social success of all students.

In Washington state schools you will find...

Students Leading in Successful Schools

The Association of Washington School Principals' (AWSP) Leadership Framework provides the criteria for effective principal leadership. Principals foster success by working to achieve excellence in eight defined framework areas. Students are also using the eight criteria as their lens for effective leadership. AWSP and AWSL have elevated an awareness of the need for principal and student partnerships to achieve the goal of academic and social success for all students.



RSVP—Raising Student Voice and Participation

In Washington, the RSVP process has worked well in schools crossing all demographics—urban, rural, suburban, alternative, comprehensive, high school and middle level. Schoolwide summits, facilitated by students for students lie at the heart of RSVP. Student leaders organize an RSVP Leadership Team that is diverse, representative and capable of listening to and honoring student voice. Issues are identified, solutions prioritized, and the entire student body engages in action plans to solve school and community issues. Schools utilize the model on an annual or bi-annual basis. Following each summit, a student leadership team meets with administration to share results, discuss issues and prepare action plans.

Summit 1: Voice

In all classrooms, student-led summits address the following questions:

- What's going well in our school?
- If you could change one thing about our school, what would it be?
- If you oversaw our city, town or neighborhood, what issue would you tackle first?
- What national or global issue would you want to address?

Lists are generated and issues/concerns are prioritized.

Summit 2: Recommendations

Based upon results of Summit 1, students answer the question, *What should we do?* Recommendations for action are determined.

Summit 3: Response & Implementation

In this summit, students answer the question, *What is your response to this plan?* Feedback is provided to improve the plan.

Students then answer the question, *How can we make our plan a reality?* Volunteers are recruited to carry out the plan.