Advocating WITH Youth

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Session Goals

- Advocacy & Youth Engagement
- How districts are advocating with students
- Next steps
1. What does advocacy mean to you?
2. Think back to a time that you have advocated for something. What made this a success?
How to be an Effective Advocate

- Passion & dedication to an issue
- Clear vision of what needs to happen
- Ability to collaborate
- Time and commitment
- Strong communication skills
Alaska’s School Board Standards
Alaska’s School Board Standards

VISION

STRUCTURE

ACCOUNTABILITY

ADVOCACY

CONDUCT-ETHICS
Advocating with students = meaningful involvement which =

• Effective decision making
• Motivation to learn
• Commitment and energy
• Better insights to what is happening in your district and schools.
As a school board member or student, what is one thing that you can do to advocate together this session?
How do we do advocacy?
Seven key steps

1. What needs to change?
2. Who can make that change happen?
3. How can I influence my advocacy targets to make that change?
4. How can I ensure meaningful participation of young people?
5. Who can I work with?
6. What obstacles might I face? How can I overcome obstacles and risks?
7. How will I monitor and evaluate my advocacy to prove it is working?
Best Practices for Advocating with youth

Long-term investment - increase capacity over time
Youth Voice = true partnership
Connect youth to resources
(ex. AASB’s Youth Advocacy Institute)
Focus on youth needs
Grow/support structure for youth advocacy
RESOURCES:

soundout.org

AASB’s Power of Untapped Resources

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