

Youth on Boards Student Ideas on Meaningful Youth Leadership



What are the strengths of our youth?

- Together we can build a positive community
- Working together and strategizing we can get a lot done
- Communication is a strength
- We know what is happening at school
- We try hard to make our concerns heard
- We can help with accountability
- We can help with making credible decisions
- Skills for planning ahead, youth can gather input on how everyone feels and their concerns
- We are resilient, smart, bold, curious, creative, open, brave, and have integrity.
- We want to use our voice to make a difference
- Being a voice for someone who might be more quiet
- We are more likely to be open and try something new.



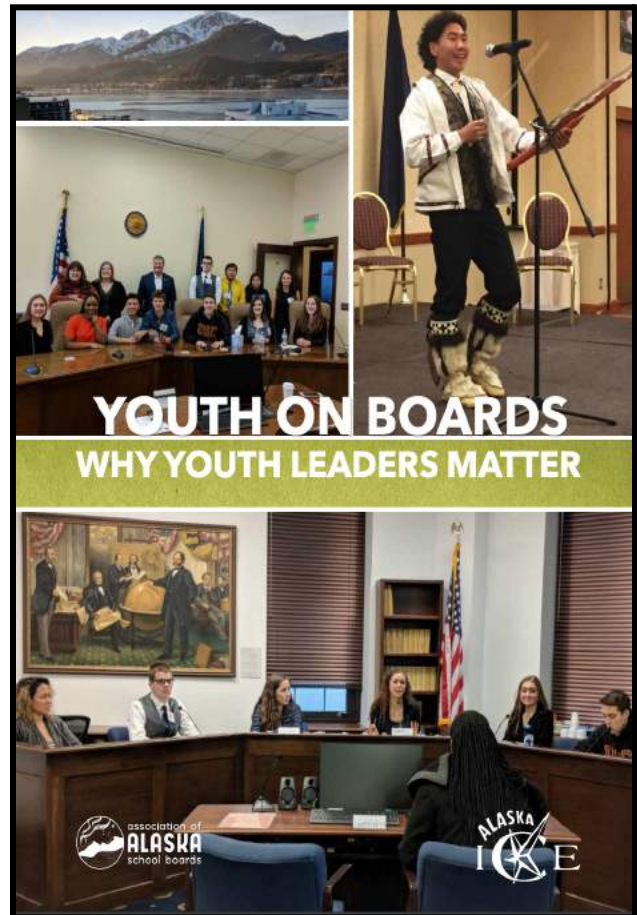
What are some of the biggest issues facing our schools, communities and state?

- **Mental Health Issues:** Suicide, insecurities- which affect voice, negative environments, and lack of opportunities.
- **Relationships at home:** Abuse, health, support of basic needs such as hygiene, food, clothing, no heard voice, bullying at home and school.
- **Internet problems:** being able to complete work and be connected
- **Basic needs not met:** Food shortages, internet to do homework, water and power problems, reliable transportation.
- **Lack of opportunities:** Not many community groups
- **Teachers need support:** some are unsure and need support from students to be effective in their peers.

- **Safety:** Alcoholism, vandalism, security issues.
- **Post Secondary support:** Not having enough programs and career tech, not having real life lessons
- **Culture is Important:** Students need more cultural programs
- **No high expectations/rigor:** Not putting enough effort to challenge the students
- **Special programs:** Providing Migrant Ed.
- **Caring adults:** be patient, students need adults that listen
- **Less funding each year:** budget issues, Increased budget for school activities, upgrading technology and school appliances.

What support do you need from adults to bring youth voice forward?

- **Build relationships with us:**
Build relationships with not just older adults but also students
- **Acknowledge us:** we matter and want to be present.
Welcome the presence of youth at meetings
- **Variety of student voices:**
Make effort for more than one student to bring their voice forward
- **Mentorship:** Having a mentor for activities/sports. Spread your wisdom, help us feel safe enough to open up
- **Public speaking:** Practice opportunities for public speaking



- **Caring adults:** Teachers listen to how students feel
- **Get to know us:** Knowing the strengths of the students
- **Provide information:** Being informed
- **Encourage us:** Having the confidence to speak forward
- **Safe space:** Making it a safe place, to feel comfortable to voice their opinions and to be supported as a youth leader.
- **Believe in us:** To be understanding and positive in the topics of youth leadership.
- Talk and be open with each other
- More time talking to each other

What can board members do to amplify the youth voice?

- **Encouragement:** Encourage students to attend meetings
- **Logistics:** Tell students when the meetings are and where.
- **Listen deeply:** Put effort into listening to what the students are saying
- **Connect student leaders:** Connecting with other school boards- reviewing student surveys, student representatives travel to villages to listen to other students perspectives.
- **We need training:** State wide gatherings for student leaders and organizations



- **Support teachers:** Listen to what teachers are saying they need to support students
- **Visit with us:** Board members visiting the school
- **Join our table:** Help out with what students activities they can
- **Help meet our basic needs:** Try to help connect students with basic needs to that they can be more connected to school
- **Listen to many voices:** Involve a few different students in decision making, student reps, government and also regular students.



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