

LISTEN UP

Using Student Voice To Improve Well-being
And Increase Engagement In Learning

Presenters: Eric Chandler, Carrie Green, Emerson Damiano, and Vanessa Chavez, *Kent Denver School (CO)*; Jennifer Villeneuve and Jon Kleiman, *Challenge Success, Stanford University*



THINK, PAIR, SHARE

1 Individually, think about a **change initiative** your school embarked on. Write down **4+ steps** your school took to tackle this initiative.

2 Share list with a partner, reflecting on how present **student voice** was in the steps you described.

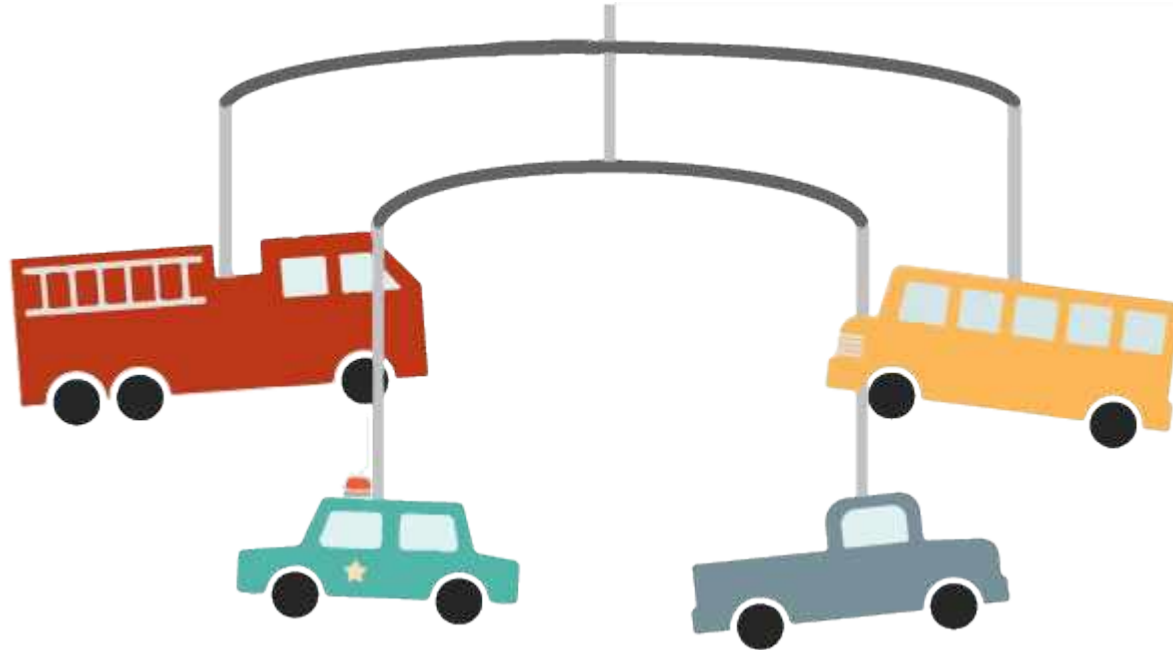
- / Convened faculty task force to look at homework policy
- / Collected best-practices from friends at local schools
- / Hosted parent coffee to educate parents
- / **Piloted with group of students**



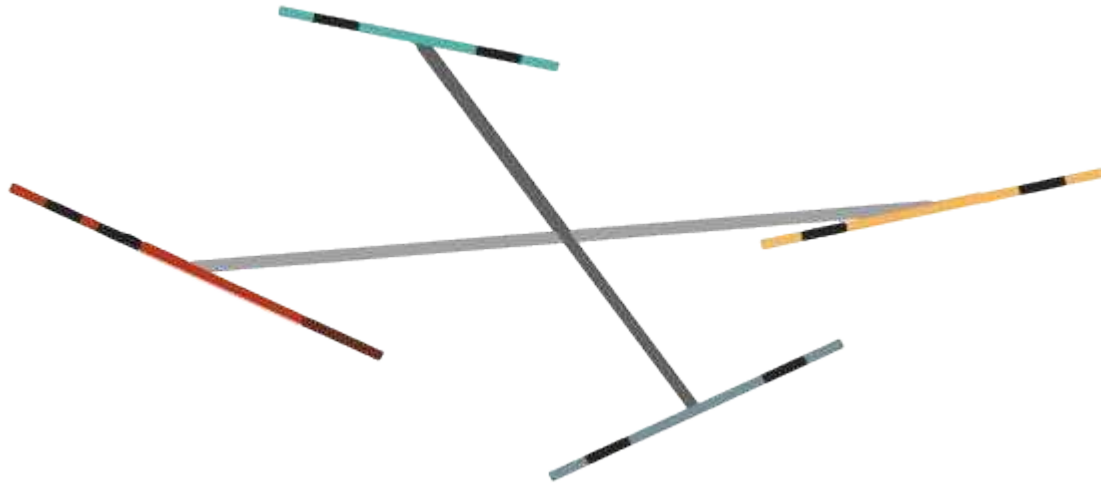
To what extent does **student voice** drive your school's **policies and practices**?



WHY DOES THIS MATTER?



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Including **student voice** in school change efforts helps ensure that our initiatives **benefit students**



CHALLENGE SUCCESS SCHOOL PROGRAM

FALL CONFERENCE



- » Identify focus
- » Attend workshops



CHALLENGE SUCCESS SCHOOL PROGRAM

FALL CONFERENCE



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- » Attend workshops



CHALLENGE SUCCESS SCHOOL PROGRAM

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SPRING CONFERENCE



- » Reflect on year
- » Network with teams
- » Plan for next year



CHALLENGE SUCCESS SCHOOL PROGRAM

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DO THE WORK

SPRING CONFERENCE



- » **Listen in** to better understand theme
- » Pilot various **solutions** to address theme

CHALLENGE SUCCESS SCHOOL PROGRAM

FALL CONFERENCE

DO THE WORK

SPRING CONFERENCE



Listen In



KENT DENVER

CHALLENGE
SUCCESS

CHALLENGE SUCCESS SCHOOL PROGRAM

FALL CONFERENCE

DO THE WORK

SPRING CONFERENCE



CHALLENGE SUCCESS SCHOOL PROGRAM

FALL CONFERENCE

DO THE WORK

SPRING CONFERENCE



CHALLENGE SUCCESS SCHOOL PROGRAM

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DO THE WORK

SPRING CONFERENCE



HOW TO LISTEN

/ Dialogue Night

/ Student Fishbowl

/ Shadow Day

/ Student Survey

...

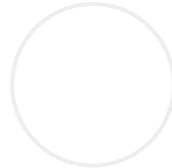


KENT DENVER + CHALLENGE SUCCESS **TIMELINE**

Administer Student
SURVEY



Attend Fall
CONFERENCE



Engage in
LISTENING IN



Implement New
POLICIES



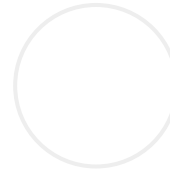
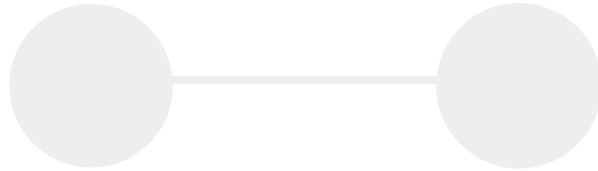
KENT DENVER + CHALLENGE SUCCESS **TIMELINE**

Administer Student
SURVEY

Join
SCHOOL PROGRAM

Engage in
LISTENING IN

Implement New
POLICIES



KENT DENVER + CHALLENGE SUCCESS **TIMELINE**

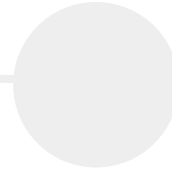
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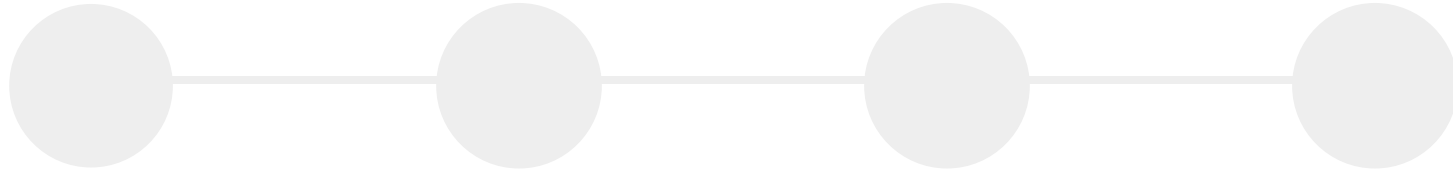
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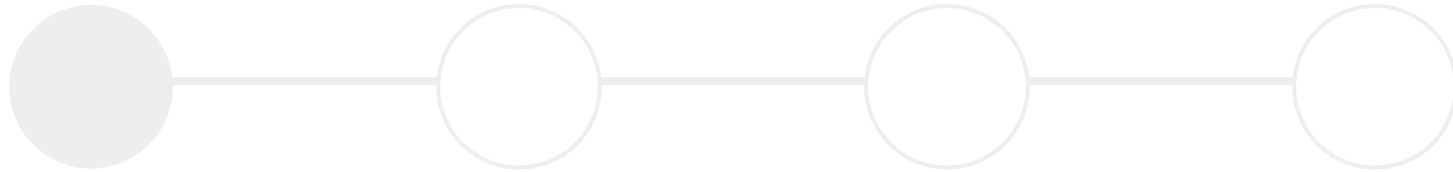
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- / **Impetus** for surveying on wellness
- / **Initial Resistance** — Cost and Expertise



1

Survey: High School Survey of Student Engagement (HSSSE)

Learning: Students very engaged in learning

Action: Commit to surveying



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Learning: Students very engaged in learning
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2 **Survey:** The Independent School Health Check
Learning: Student substance use is low
Action: Share data with community



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Learning: Students very engaged in learning
Action: Commit to surveying

2 **Survey:** The Independent School Health Check
Learning: Student substance use is low
Action: Share data with community

3 **Survey:** Challenge Success Student Survey
Learning: 9th grade is most stressed
Action: Freshman wellness/study hall program



What we learned

- / Surveys give students voice
- / Expertise is worth the price.
- / Critical to communicate findings with community

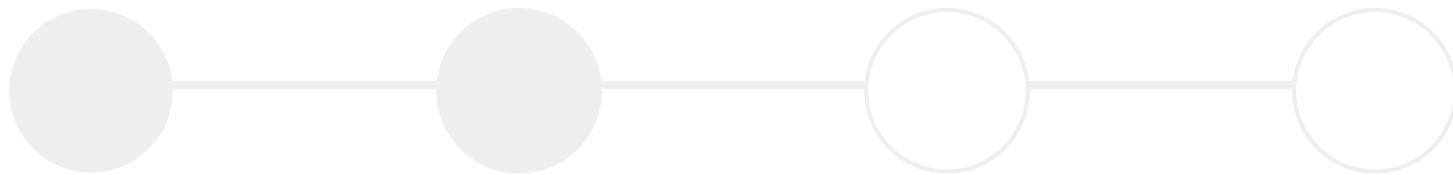


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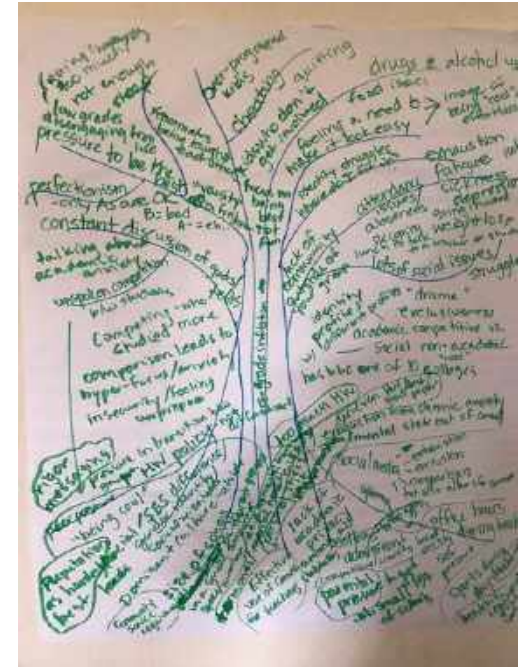


- / Joined **Challenge Success School Program**
- / Team of administrators, parents, teachers and **students**
- / Importance of **student voice**



CONFERENCES **STRESS TREE**

- / Team charted **stressors** and **root causes**
- / Everyone had **equal voice**
- / No judgement



SCHOOL
PROGRAM

3 FOCUS POINTS

**COMMUNITY
MESSAGING**

**HOMEWORK/GRADING
POLICIES**

**GRADUATION
REQUIREMENTS**



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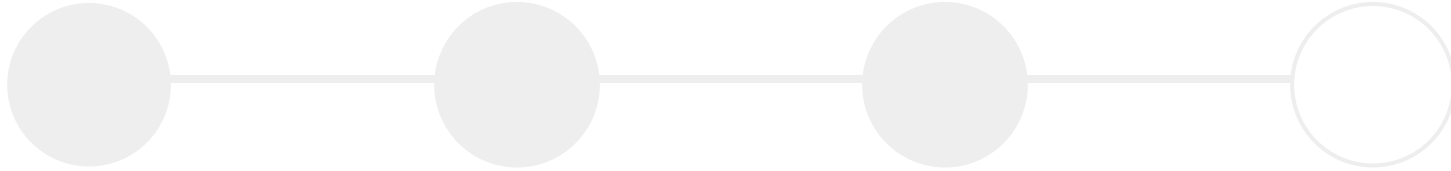
CHALLENGE
SUCCESS

Administer Student
SURVEY

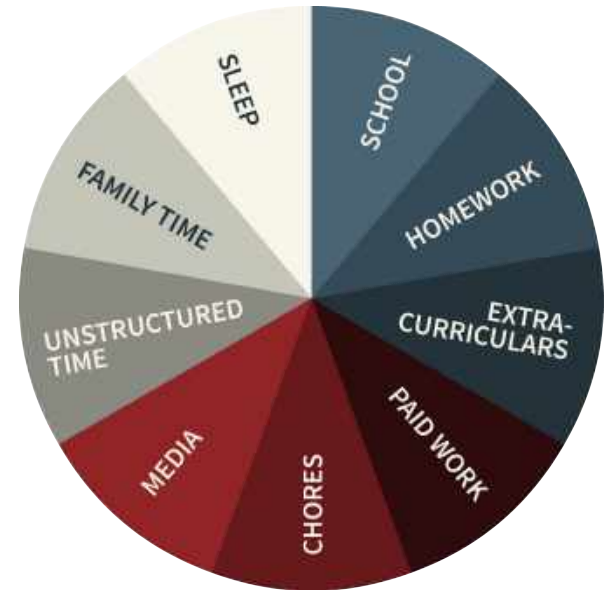
Join
SCHOOL PROGRAM

Engage in
LISTENING IN

Implement New
POLICIES



- / Organized **focus groups** to listen in
- / Led by **students**
- / Ran **time wheel** activity



Shadow Day is an opportunity for teachers and administrators to shadow students to learn about the **daily experience of attending school.**



- / Paired teachers with **diverse group of students**
- / Followed students for entire day
- / Provided opportunity for **reflection**



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- / Followed students for entire day
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“

My colleagues are doing awesome things in their classes!

”





This provides so much insight into
friend groups



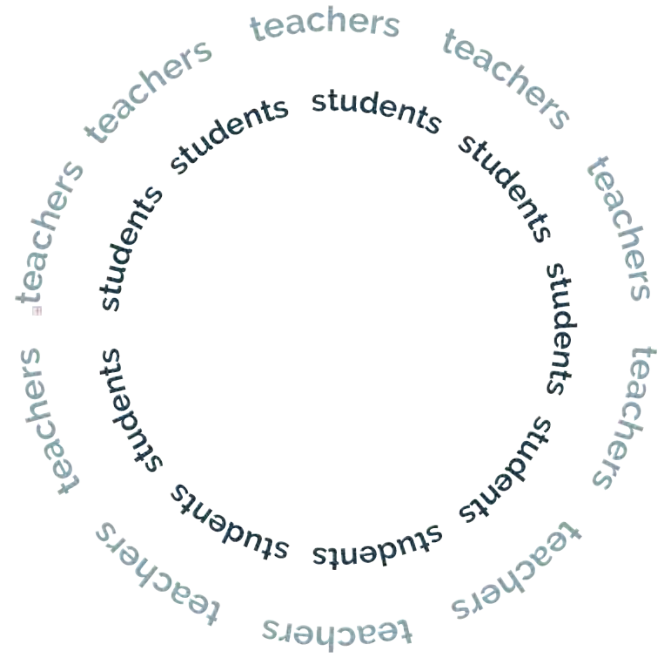
“

Couldn't put my feet up on chair in front, back was sore, couldn't recline, chair too rigid, no flexibility. Much easier to be a teacher, you can sit, stand, walk around as you need to or want to. Students are basically stuck in chairs for 50 min.

”



A fishbowl offers a unique opportunity to “**listen in**” as a small group of thoughtful students share their **experiences and feelings** on a particular topic.



- / I wish my **teachers** knew...
- / I wish my **parents** knew...
- / I wish my **peers** knew...



/ I wish my **teachers** knew...

- “We need time for our brains to transition from one class to another”
- “We have five more classes and a lot more work than they realize”
- “The workload is better than it used to be!”
- “We are so thankful for everything that you do and sacrifice for us!”



WHY LISTENING IN MATTERS

- / Allow teachers to **understand student experience**
- / Led to **changes** in individual classrooms and across the school



Administer Student
SURVEY

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SCHOOL PROGRAM

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NEW
POLICIES

MS HOMEWORK POLICY

/ Example of how **listening in** led to work on HW policy



Original HW Policy

Students are expected to be prepared daily for classes and generally spend **30 minutes** per class meeting on homework per night; students in Advanced Placement and honors courses may spend up to **45 minutes** each night on homework for these classes. Those who spend more or less time than these guidelines are encouraged to discuss study skills and expectations with their teacher.



Homework Load & Habits

Student perceptions of homework, including time spent and belief in its usefulness.

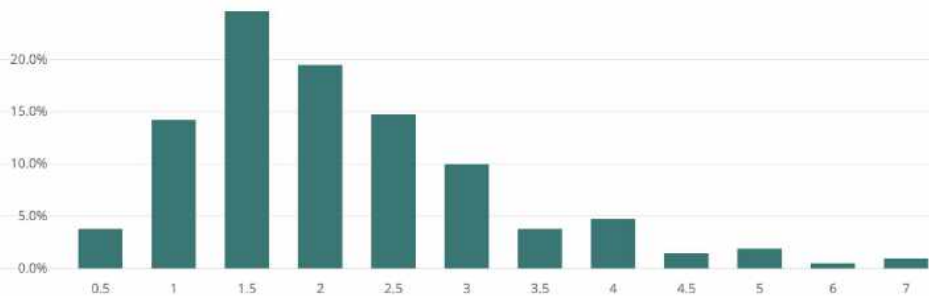
Average hours of homework on weekdays

2.2

Average hours of homework on a weekend

2.1

Average weekday homework, distribution of responses 211 Responses



Challenge Success Student Survey, 2017

Student reporting 2+ hours of homework:

43.2%

NAIS Independent School Health Check Data, 2018



- / CS **Homework Webinar**
- / Tolerance Exercises
- / Meetings by Grade **Level / Subject**
- / **Institutional Support:** Schedule Change



NEW
POLICIES

CHANGE PROCESS



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Revised HW Policy

Students are expected to prepare daily for classes and generally spend no more than:

60 minutes per night in ***6th grade***,
75 minutes per night in ***7th grade*** and
90 minutes per night in ***8th grade***.



NEW
POLICIES

IS IT WORKING?



2017

Challenge Success Student Survey

Average hours of homework on
weekdays

2.2

Average hours of homework on a
weekend

2.1

2019

Challenge Success Student Survey

Average hours of homework on
weekdays

1.6

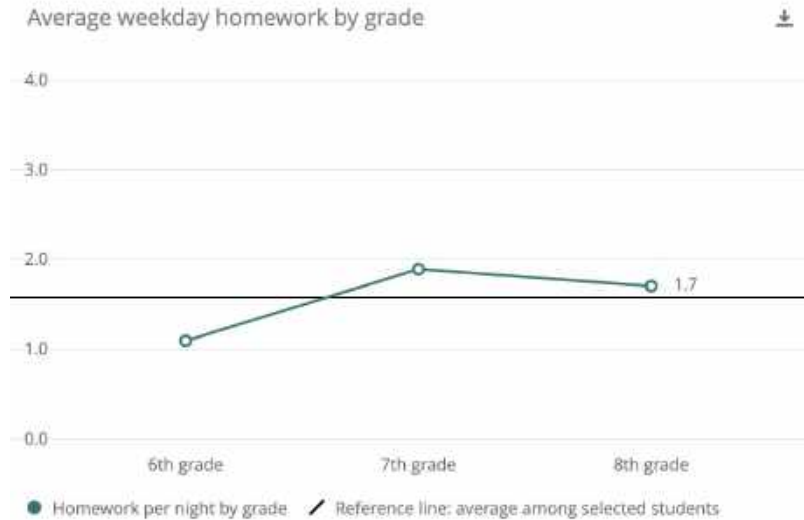
Average hours of homework on a
weekend

1.6

Challenge Success Student Survey, 2017 & 2019



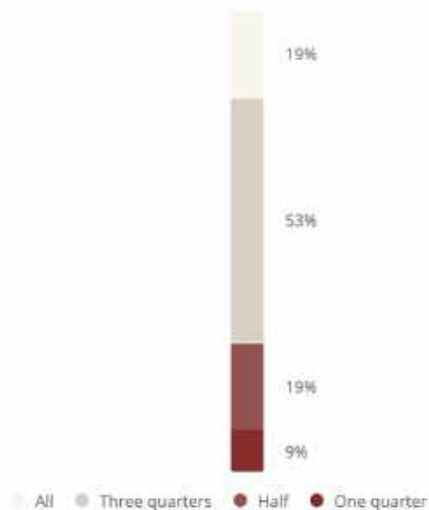
2019



Challenge Success Student Survey, 2019

2019

How much of their homework do students find useful?



Challenge Success Student Survey, 2019

STUDENT VOICE ACROSS ALL **CS SCHOOLS**

- / Evaluated impact of Challenge Success Program across **30 Schools**
- / **Student experience** drove change, by answering the question:

What is it like to be a student at our school?



VOICES FROM **CS SCHOOLS**



I think that it's been very helpful to **solicit input from students** and get their perspective on how school operates and how it impacts them. It's been very positive. It's made all our conversations, even those outside CS, **more in tune** to what's going on with our students.



Administrator



VOICES FROM CS SCHOOLS



The most valuable part of being on this team for me is that it's a place and a group of people where I feel as though not only is my voice heard, but **I also have a voice for those who tend to stay quiet and not speak up** about the changes that they want to see in our community.



Student



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