



SYMPOSIUM BREAKOUT SESSION
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2022 | 12:00-1:00 PM ET

Conversations with Kids: Walking the Road to Reinvention

PRESENTERS:

- Jenee Henry Wood, Transcend
- David Nitkin, Transcend
- Cory Steiner, Northern Cass School District
- Seskia Anderson, Northern Cass High School



GOALS & AGENDA

*Explore how the **voices of young people** can help us **imagine new ways** of creating more **transformative, equitable learning experiences** across the country.*

- Welcome + Framing
- What we did and what we learned
- Connect to your community
- Hear from a superintendent and student
- Next Steps + Closing



COMMUNITY AGREEMENTS

Which agreement do you want to lean into during our time together today? Share the agreement in chat.

- ❑ Say the thing
- ❑ “Yes and...”
- ❑ Call in, not call out
- ❑ Stay engaged
- ❑ Self-care, community care

If at any time the space no longer feels safe for you, please notify a facilitator.

ENGAGEMENT NORMS

Tech

- If at any point you need support with tech, *direct message David*
- We encourage video participation for breakout groups***, but understand if you aren't able to

Participation & Engagement

- We will use Zoom breakout rooms for small group discussions
- We will use chat and Google docs to share resources
- We might ask you to read something aloud from a slide. It's always OK to say "not today!"
- We will invite folks to ***go on and off mute when in Zoom*** so that we bring multiple voices into the conversation

Student Mental Health Is Overwhelming Schools. Can Congress Help?

Projected K-12 drops in enrollment pose immediate upheaval and decade-long challenge

State forecasts 11.4% fewer students by 2031; LA and Bay Area to be hit hardest

How teens are experiencing their version of the 'Great Resignation'

'Fulfilling the Mission:' More Than 70 New Mexico National Guard Members Step in as Substitute Teachers to Keep Schools Open

'Pandemic means trauma': That's especially true for the worried heroes who teach our children

Forbes

Stopping The Great Teacher Resignation Will Be Education's Big Challenge For 2022

City Department of Education is trying to hide the true drop in public-school enrollment

By Post Editorial Board

November 1, 2021 | 7:32pm | Updated

Education

'Nation's Report Card' finds falling test scores, even pre-covid

Student test scores fall for first time in national test's history



“As we consider what learning can look like for my generation and those to come, I hope more schools will take the time to walk a mile in the shoes of their students and redesign the school day with them in mind...To be better, schools must ask the right questions of their community and make changes based on the responses. This starts with listening to us.”

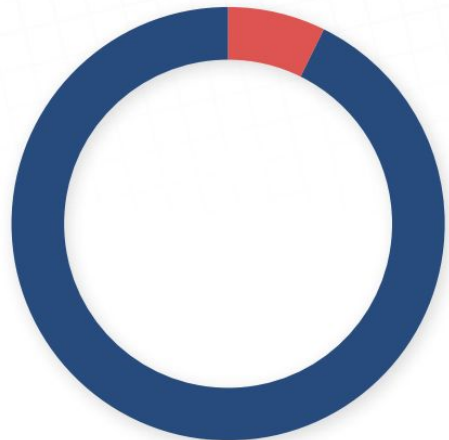
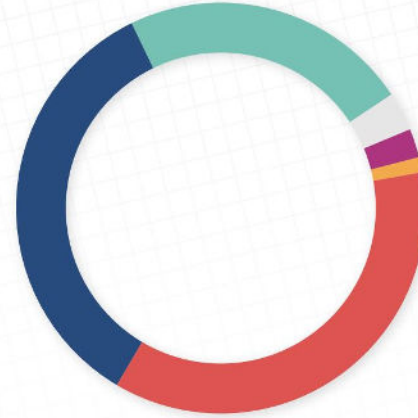
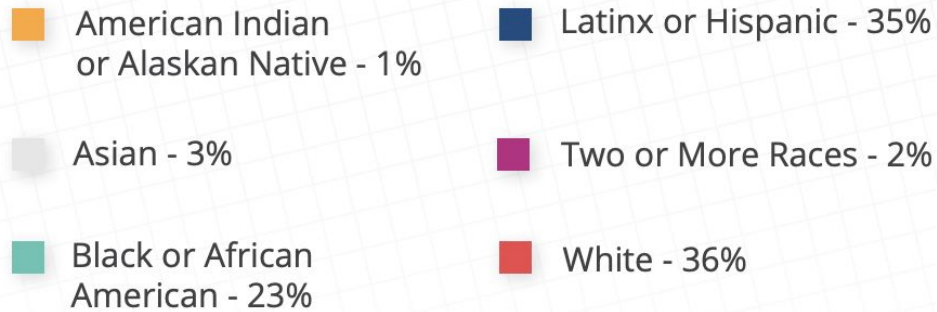
-Ali Khatib, 2022 graduate of Salisbury High School in North Carolina



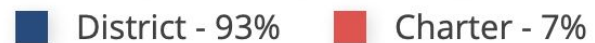
- In Fall 2021 we shared **tools to help communities have conversations with young people** about their experiences in school:
 - Conversation guide
 - Reflection guide
 - Validated survey
- Our partner communities used those tools to listen to **20,000+ young people**

CONVERSATIONS WITH KIDS

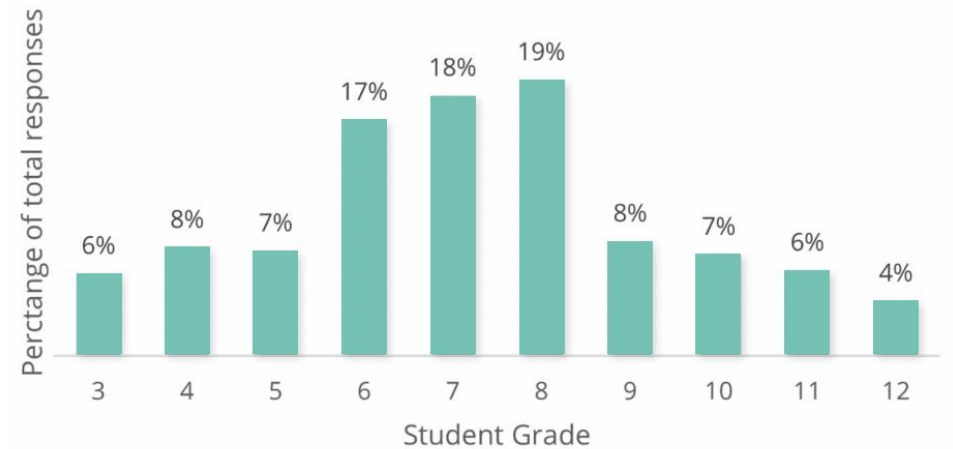
Race/Ethnicity Breakdown in Student Survey



Responses Based on School Governance



Percentage of Responses by Grade



WHAT WE HEARD (PART 1)

1. Most young people say that their experiences in school feel irrelevant and offer few opportunities for agency and choice.
2. Young people report that they learn most in school when their experiences feel highly relevant, rigorous, and customized.
3. Many young people report that their best experiences in school happen outside of core academic—and these experiences are inequitably distributed.

- • ○ Only **31%** say that what they learn is connected to life outside the classroom
- • ○ Only **35%** say they get to learn about things they're interested in
- • ○ Only **29%** say they have a say about what happens to them
- • ○ Only **31%** say they can choose how to do their work

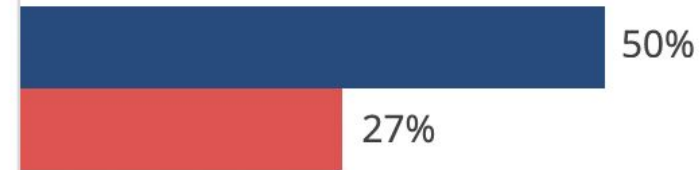
WHAT WE HEARD (PART 2)

4. Many young people of all backgrounds are thinking about, talking about, and taking action to address social inequities — sometimes more than adults realize.
5. Adults often report that listening to young people is dramatically helpful and increased their conviction in the necessity of rethinking the design of school.
6. When educators and kids talk together, it's possible to co-design experiences that make dramatic shifts in experiences. Deep listening is catalytic!

Student vs. Adult Responses

(% of responses that are positive)

■ Student Responses ■ Adult Responses



In school we take action to fix problems in society, such as racism and discrimination



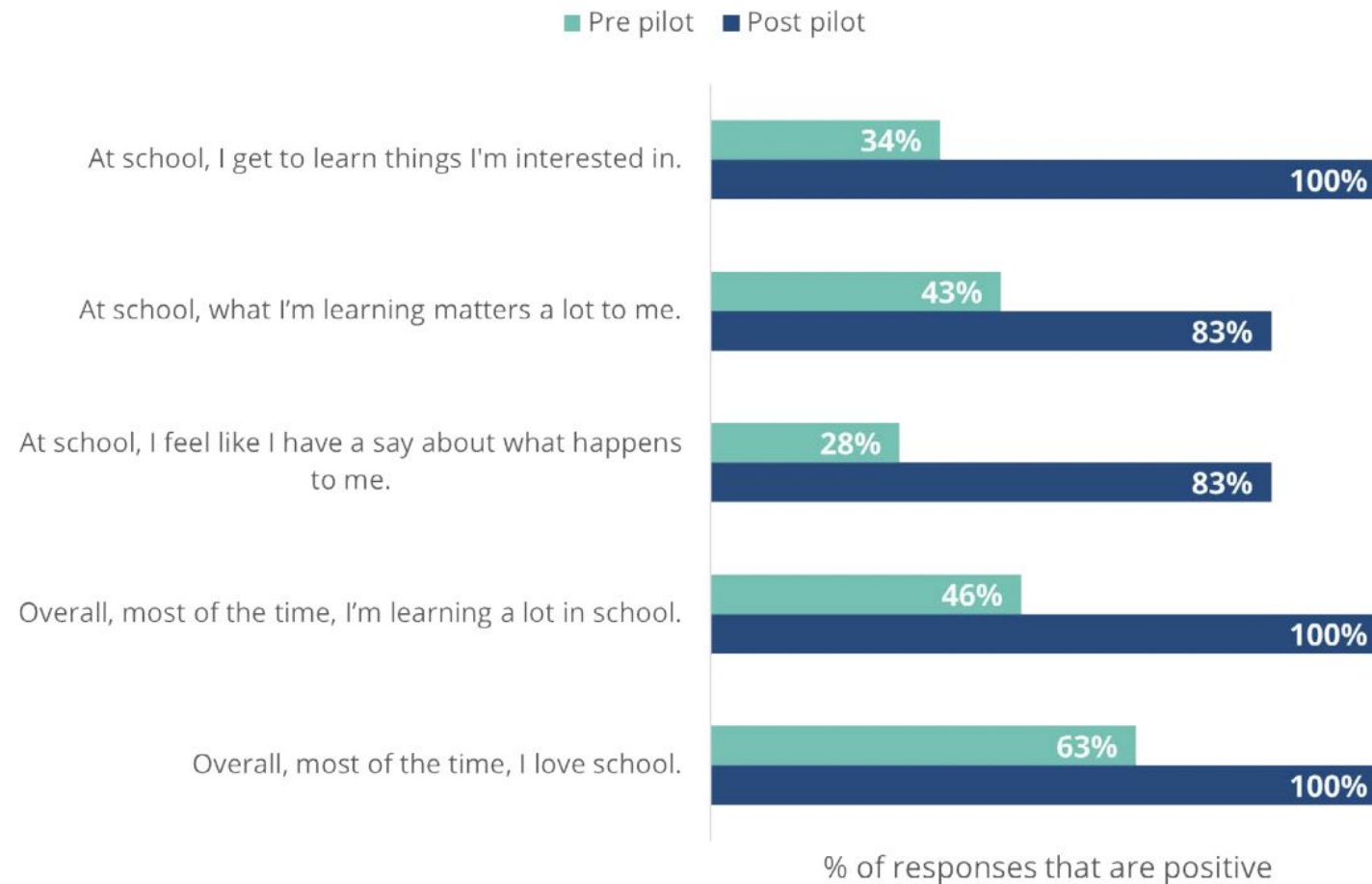
In school we learn about racism in the United States

REFLECTION

Let's 
Discuss
Learn More

- How do these insights **connect to your experience?**
- Why do we think these experiences are so common? What are the **root causes?**

6. When educators and kids talk together, it's possible to co-design experiences that make dramatic shifts in experiences. Deep listening is catalytic!



RESOURCES

Reflection Guides

Conversations with Kids:

Reflection Guide for Schools

In the fall of 2021, we shared a set of discussion and survey tools based on the idea that educational redesign should start by talking to those for whom school matters most — young people themselves. Over the last year, hundreds of communities across the country used the tools to support them in listening to more than 20,000 young people. You can read more about what we learned in *Conversations with Kids: What Communities Learned from A Year of Listening*.

This reflection guide is designed to help you begin a conversation within your community about how listening to young people can be relevant and impactful to you. Use it as a starting place, and feel free to modify and adapt it for your own needs. What matters most isn't the phrasing of the questions, but the commitment to speaking directly with young people in service of redesigning education to prepare all young people to thrive.

1. What do we think young people would say about their current experiences in our school? How can we check to see whether our assumptions are accurate?
2. To what extent do young people's experience in school engage with their intrinsic passions and interests? What patterns exist across groupings of young people? How do we know?
3. To what degree are young people's voices formally incorporated into our planning, decision-making, and other systems within our community? Does that align with what we'd want?
4. Which young people in our school do we usually keep top of mind when making decisions? Who is most likely to be overlooked?
5. If we currently use a student survey, where do the questions assume and reinforce a traditional model for schooling, and where do they reflect a more expansive vision for what school can be?
6. How can we bring young people to the table to help us discuss the questions above?



Conversation Guide



Free Validated Survey

At my school what I'm learning matters a lot to me.

Almost never <input type="radio"/>	Once in a while <input type="radio"/>	Sometimes <input type="radio"/>	Frequently <input type="radio"/>	Almost always <input type="radio"/>
---------------------------------------	--	------------------------------------	-------------------------------------	--

At my school I can choose how to do my work.

Almost never <input type="radio"/>	Once in a while <input type="radio"/>	Sometimes <input type="radio"/>	Frequently <input type="radio"/>	Almost always <input type="radio"/>
---------------------------------------	--	------------------------------------	-------------------------------------	--

I interact with people outside my school to help me learn.

Strongly Disagree <input type="radio"/>	Disagree <input type="radio"/>	Neither Agree nor Disagree <input type="radio"/>	Agree <input type="radio"/>	Strongly Agree <input type="radio"/>
--	-----------------------------------	---	--------------------------------	---

Overall, most of the time, I love school.

Strongly Disagree <input type="radio"/>	Disagree <input type="radio"/>	Neither Agree nor Disagree <input type="radio"/>	Agree <input type="radio"/>	Strongly Agree <input type="radio"/>
--	-----------------------------------	---	--------------------------------	---



AURORA INSTITUTE

Symposium

OCTOBER 24 – 26, 2022 | VIRTUAL

Thank you for joining us!

Share Your Thoughts

Participate in our one-minute poll (link in chat box)

