



Amplifying Student Voice

Course Description: Over the past several years, the concept of student voice has been raised more and more in the field of education. Today more than ever, teachers and administrators are seeing an increase in student involvement, both in social change and the desire to have updated and relevant curricula in their school. Student voice is defined as “any expression of any student about anything related to education and learning” (Fletcher, *The Guide to Student Voice*, 2nd Edition, 2014).

This course will cover the subject of student voice, and why including it in the classroom is an important part of the educating process for today’s students. Participants will be guided through the process of amplifying student voice, and be given ideas on how to help students find a voice to express their needs and interests, no matter the subject.

Clock Hours / Continuing Education Units: 5

Learning Objectives:

- Identify the concept of student voice as it relates to education
- Demonstrate an awareness of the role student voice plays in the life of a student, and their learning process
- Create a plan to encourage more active involvement of student voice in the classroom
- Develop strategies to ensure students have the opportunity to voice needs and ideas related to their education and learning

Course Requirements: To receive full credit for the course, participants must complete ALL assignments. Failure to complete all assignments will result in a non-passing grade

Getting Started:

- After registering for the course, you will be sent an email with the website address, password, and course key you need to access your online course, along with login instructions
- Access each assignment through the course home page. All assignments will be submitted through the Canvas platform on each respective assignment page.
- Save a backup copy of all course assignments and completed work.

Course Outline:

Lesson Number	Lesson Description	Clock Hours
1	Introductions and Overview: Take the time to get to know the class layout, read over the Help section, and review any other materials present in the class to get started. Take your time!	0.2 hours
2	What is Student Voice? – In this lesson, participants will explain what student voice is and why it is an important part of the educating process for today’s student.	0.6 hours
3	The Value of the Student Perspective – In this lesson, participants will learn about the intersectional views that students have and the value of including those perspectives in the classroom. They will understand why the lived experiences of students can enrich the classroom. Additionally, participants will reflect on student views and perspectives and how they would integrate that in their classroom.	0.6 hours
4	What Does Student Voice Look Like? - In this lesson, participants will learn how to recognize when a student is attempting to integrate their voice into the classroom. Participants will reflect on why it is important to hear students when they are speaking and not listen from only a surface level.	0.6 hours

5	Transforming the Class – In this lesson, participants are given reading assignments on creating a classroom that adapts to different learning styles of students. Additionally, they will learn about the importance of flexibility in the classroom to accommodate students.	0.6 hours
6	Safe Spaces to Express Student Voice – In this lesson, participants will read articles about the importance of creating safe spaces in the classroom so students feel heard. In addition, they will reflect on what steps they can take to ensure all students feel that they can express themselves.	0.6 hours
7	Facilitate Student Voice Every Day – In this lesson, participants will read about tips to <i>Pump Up Student Voice</i> in the classroom. They will also read on how to empower students to take responsibility for their own learning.	0.6 hours
8	Getting Feedback – In this lesson, participants will read on the importance of consistent feedback from their students and how they can improve the classroom experience. They will also learn about the importance of receiving feedback from students and reflect on the feedback they receive in their our classrooms.	0.6 hours
9	Teaching Social Justice – In this lesson, participant will review four different approaches to infusing student voice and social justice into their school curriculum. They will reflect on where their curriculum lands and how they can make improvements to their curriculum.	0.6 hours
	TOTAL	5 Hours

Student Requirements and Assessment: No outside materials will be required for the completion of this course. Participants will be required to complete a series of electronic quizzes to assess their understanding. Participants can earn up to 40 points total for the course. Each quiz may be taken up to three times, with the highest score recorded in the final grade. All quizzes must be completed in order to earn credit.

Grading Scale:

100-80% (32-40)	Pass
79%-Below (<32 points)	No Pass

Americans with Disabilities Act: If you are a student with a disability and require any auxiliary aids, services, or other accommodations for this class, please email academy@iowasafeschools.org or call 515.381.0588.

Professional Development: Prior to purchasing a course registration, it is your responsibility to ensure that National Safe Schools Convening Online Academy coursework satisfies the license renewal requirements for your state and/or district.

Resources: The following resources were used to develop this course:

The Guide to Student Voice, 2nd Edition (2014) Adam F.C. Fletcher

Description: The Guide to Student Voice is packed with the information students, educators, advocates, and others need to promote student engagement in schools. Featuring a professional, easy-to-read layout, this short book is packed with useful tips, powerful activities, and great guidance for anyone interested in student voice today!

Student Voice: The Instrument of Change, 1st Edition Russell J. (Joseph) Quaglia, Michael J. Corso

Description: When you take time to listen, you’ll find that students’ aspirations can drive your school toward exciting new goals—and when students know they’re being heard, they engage meaningfully in their own academic success. Using examples drawn from student surveys, focus groups, observations, and interviews, this groundbreaking book presents a blueprint for a successful partnership between educators and students. You’ll discover how to:

- Ask the right questions—and understand how to build from the answers
- Engage students in decision-making and improvement-related processes
- Implement the Aspirations Framework to guide students toward their full potential