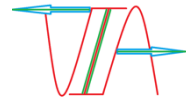


Youth Voices in Action



Youth Summit Report 2022

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About Youth Voices in Action - VIA

Our Mission Statement

Youth of different ages collectively coming together to speak up, be heard and make a change in our education system to fit the needs of everyone.

Our Vision

We work to create student-led trainings and campaigns that will help eliminate inequities in the education system and incorporate Student Voices in Decision Making at Albuquerque Public School (APS).

Our campaigns are made by youth for youth. Learn more at YouthVoicesInAction.com

Thank you to our partners:

Learning Alliance of New Mexico

APS Office of Equity and Engagement

ENLACE

SouthWest Organizing Project

Forward Together

Washington Middle School

Polk Middle School

Ernie Pyle Middle School

George I Sanchez Community School

What is the Youth Summit?

Youth Voices in Action, or VIA, has been empowering youth since 2015. VIA was founded after the Albuquerque PARCC walkouts by Albuquerque Public School students and has since been a part of building student's leadership skills in the area of social justice and specifically Education and Youth Rights. The main goal of the VIA Student Led Youth Summit is to provide students with trainings and workshops that will develop them as leaders, public speakers and students who understand the root causes of the inequities within the education system. The youth summit allows for a space where youth come together to speak openly about things they would like to see changed inside of their schools without being tokenized or ignored. VIA focuses on encouraging students, specifically students of color, who are not surrounded by academic or personal support, to be able to see their own potential and to develop the skills necessary to lead campaigns to make change in their schools because we believe those who are directly affected by an unjust education system have the ultimate power to create change. When youth are empowered, they can create changes, those changes work as a domino effect for other students to also become leaders. All they need is a space to do so. That's why VIA, as students, created the student-led youth summit.

This year's summit was held at the Berna Facio Professional Development Center. This also marks VIA's sixth year coordinating a student-led summit for the Albuquerque Public School district. Unlike past years, this year's summit was held in September rather than our annual April summit due to complications in transportation. This was also the only year we had an only middle schools summit.

This year's summit theme was **"Our Future, Our Voice"**. We choose this theme because of the issues of political climate that are affecting our community. We believe that students voices need to be at the center of policy development especially within education because those policies directly affect youth and their futures.



WORKSHOPS

The workshops presented at the youth summit were chosen by our youth summit committee and are issues that the students believed were relevant to their educational and personal experiences. All of the workshops were led by young people ages 12-24.

The workshops that were presented were:

1. How to create change 101 -

In this workshop, youth learned how to use their voice to create positive change and become a leader. Youth also learned about other students who have created change throughout history!

2. Gender Justice/ Justicia de Genero (SPANISH) –

En este taller hablaron sobre la identidad de género. Aprendieron sobre identidad y las intersecciones del Feminismo.

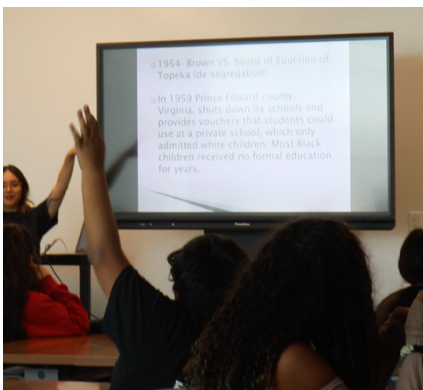
3. Who invented education? -

In this workshop youth discussed the history of the education system! Youth learned; Why was it invented, What are some problems, What are the good things and more!

4. Youth Justice 101 -

In this workshop youth learned about student rights and the history of youth justice! Youth also did an activity about the juvenile justice system and the school to prison pipeline.

This year we decided to hold workshops not only for students but teachers as well. We discussed how teachers can be better supported by APS and community.



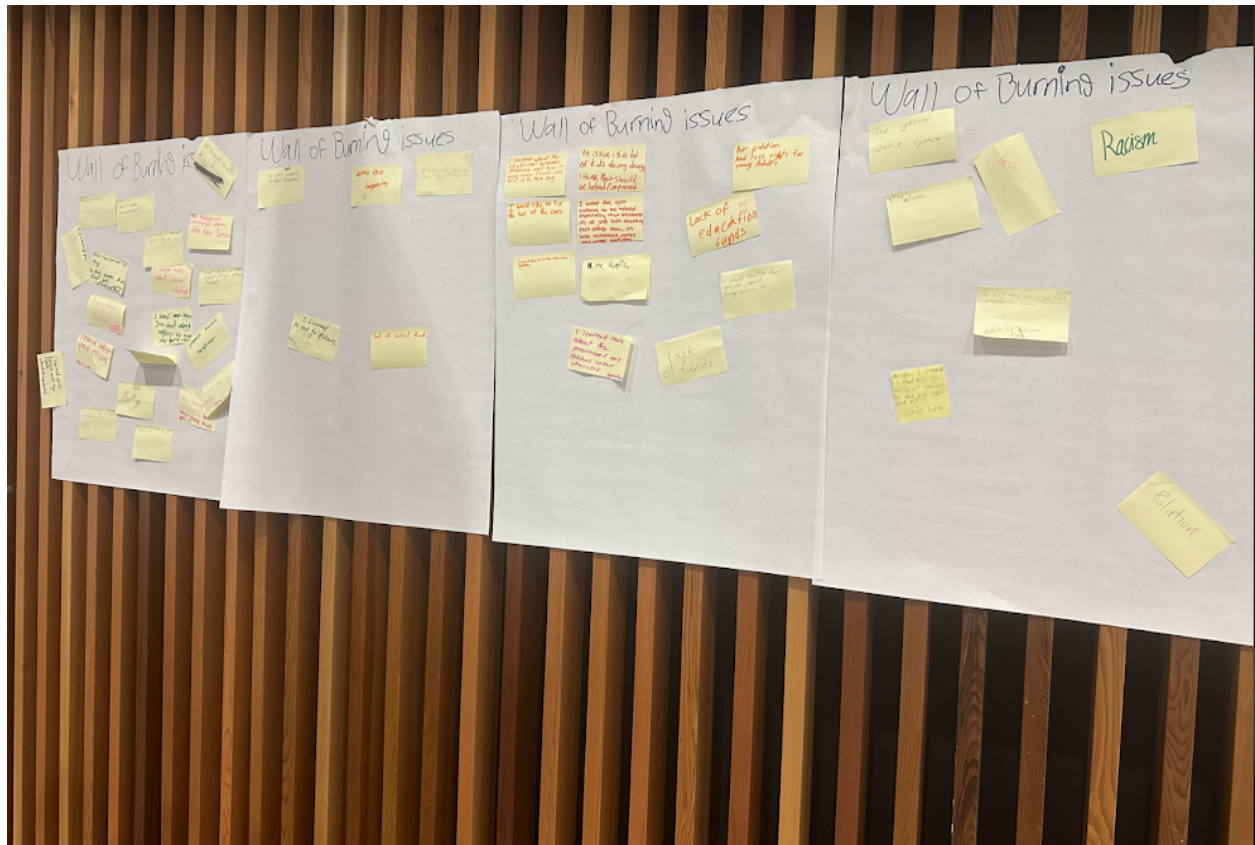
What is happening in education & how can you be involved –

In this workshop teachers and chaperones discussed the education lawsuit Yazzie/Martinez vs. State of NM and what it means for them and their students.

WALL OF BURNING ISSUES

During the Summit we did an activity “The Wall of Burning Issues” where students write on a sticky note any issue they’re passionate about. Then, we read all the sticky notes and put them in categories of campaigns that we, as VIA can work on in the future.

The following table are the future campaigns students would like VIA to work on. We also included a picture of some of the other issues that were brought up.



WALL OF BURNING ISSUES CONT.

Area of Issue	Issue	Campaign
Funding	School Garden equipment and classes	Events and fundraising for awareness and educating community on the importance of school gardens
	Budget Cuts/How to keep away from hurting education, extra-curricular activities and sports	Making a report for APS on how to more effectively fund programs when dealing with budget cuts. What's important to students?
	Lack of funding for new classes/ electives	Helping to discover more funding for classes and electives or finding more effective ways to spend funds
	Lack of training for school officers	Funding trainings for officers in mental health and not using excessive force while not being racially biased
Student Rights	Suicide awareness and prevention	Workshops and discussions inside schools
	Stopping discrimination, sexism, racism, genderism etc. between students & students and students & teachers	Workshops and student forums to determine what's really going on/ More teacher trainings

Area of Issue	Issue	Campaign
	Gang violence prevention	Restorative justice measures and student forums
	Gun Violence	Work with APS to create better and functioning systems of protective measures along with general public awareness of the issues affecting our schools.
	LGBTQ Rights and solidarity	Workshops and student forums
	Youth Justice System	Student forums and workshops that help youth understand the problems within the Juvenile Justice System
	Social Justice Classes	Improving the introduction of Social Justice topics into school curriculum and raising more awareness of the students' rights
	Rights for undocumented Students and protecting those right	Building awareness of classes and getting more classes involved
	Poverty, Violence and drug use	Workshops and student forums
	Stop using dress code as a form to discriminate against girls and students facing poverty	Student led school wide campaigns
	Cafeteria Food	Starting school gardens to have fresh food and holding school

Area of Issue	Issue	Campaign
		board accountable for the food they are serving to students
	Zero Tolerance Policies	Campaigns around restorative justice and how teachers and students can work together
	In School Suspension is not an adequate way to hold students accountable	Building awareness that students shouldn't miss class if they are minutes late etc.
	Testing	High stakes standardized tests do not reflect every students knowledge/competency. Funding should go to better use.
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Mental Health	Training teachers on how to react towards mental health incidents	More support for struggling teachers
	Connecting Testing and Mental Health	Workshops/data collecting on how testing can disrupt mental health
Environment	Water Contamination inside schools	Water data and awareness
	Pollution	Student forums and awareness workshops
	Environmental Racism	Workshops and forums

A huge thank you to all the schools involved!!

School

- George I Sanchez Community School
- Polk Middle School
- Ernie Pyle Middle School
- Washington Middle School

Amount of Students

- 30 students
- 35 Students
- 32 students
- 30 students

For more information about VIA or the Youth Summit please contact Janelle@la-nm.org or Isabella@la-nm.org .