



Vision97 4ALL Plan
Community Learning Session
Student Choice, Voice and Agency
Tuesday, October 24, 2017
6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
260 Madison Street

On Tuesday, October 24, 2017, District 97 will host our first community learning session in the boardroom of the administration building (260 Madison Street) from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. The title of this session will be "Student Choice, Voice and Agency."

During the event, students, teachers and administrators will provide the Board of Education and community with information and examples of how children are directing their own learning and working with their peers on real-world tasks that are culturally relevant and socially significant. They will also show how the targeted strategy of student choice, voice and agency is helping us advance our vision of creating a positive learning environment for all students that is equitable, inclusive and focused on the whole child.

Below are the specific areas/opportunities we plan to discuss/highlight during the session. People can access additional information about the district's vision by visiting <http://www.op97.org/about/vision>.

IEP Goal Setting

The district's special education department is supporting the strategy of student choice, voice and agency by providing students in grades five through eight with the chance to be active participants in IEP meetings. When children turn 14 1/2, their attendance at IEP meetings is mandatory. By allowing them to engage in this process prior to reaching that age, they will be better equipped and prepared to represent their strengths and advocate for necessary supports. It will also aid their transition into new learning environments when they move from fifth to sixth grade and from eighth grade to high school.

To help orient our students to this process, our special education teachers provide them with a framework for participation. They also create agendas and presentations that offer them an entry point into the meetings and are reflective of their work.

Third Grade Math Enrichment Units

In her book "The Pedagogy of Confidence," Dr. Yvette Jackson discusses the high operational practices that are inherent in gifted education and promote student voice. Through our study and discussion of Dr. Jackson's work, we were able to develop third grade enrichment units this summer that are helping us:

- Identify and activate students' strengths
- Elicit high intellectual performance
- Provide enrichment
- Integrate the prerequisites for academic learning
- Give students a more active voice in their learning

The Work of the Technology Advisory Committee

Through the work of the Technology Advisory Committee, students have been given the chance to help guide the efforts we are undertaking to further integrate the use of technology in the classroom and create a more interactive and engaging learning environment for the more than 6,000 children we serve. For example, the feedback we collected via focus groups with more than 100 students played a prominent role in our decision to switch to Chromebooks at the middle school level. In addition, the student members of our committee will be actively engaged in the development of a new three-year technology plan for the district that will be aligned with our vision and focused on ensuring that all children have access to the resources they need to learn, grow and achieve.