

STUDENTS' SIX PROCESS



A student-led, research-based framework
for helping students and teachers thrive

**APC Leadership
Collaborative**

Whether for high-level policy change or classroom practices, the authentic voice of students is one of the most powerful tools for creating change in the school system.

When your own students say, “here’s what helps me” – teachers listen. Students feel agency over their education and staff feel excited to make a difference. Schools get safer, more connected, and student outcomes improve.

APC Leadership Collaborative pioneered our Students’ Six Process to empower students to show their teachers how to make them feel supported and do their best academically.



**To collaborate with us on a Students’ Six process for your school,
contact us at www.APCcollab.com**

How It Works

- **Staff Partnership:** We work with 2-3 members of the school or district staff to provide a link between APC Leadership Collaborative and the school/district.
- **Student Recruitment:** A diverse group of high school students is invited to participate – representing a wide range of academic and social experiences. Anyone who wants to participate is welcome to, and the cohort is expanded every year for continuation.
- **Cohort Development:** Students build trust, reflect on their schooling experiences, and learn a shared language for discussing their experience of belonging and academic success in the classroom and the school.
- **Strategy Selection:** Students learn 20 research-based, belonging focused teaching strategies and choose those that matter most to them.
- **Professional Development:** Students design presentations to teach these strategies to their own teachers – supported by staff partners and APC Leadership Collaborative.
- **Student-Led Change:** Students share with their teachers how they want to be taught, providing actionable, personal insights on what helps them learn best.
- **Systems Change:** Schools and districts develop a plan to reinforce these practices and continue engaging student voices.



Why is it called “Students’ Six?”

Students learn 20 research-based, belonging focused teaching strategies and choose six that matter most to them. There isn’t anything magical about the number six – **the magic comes from the students taking ownership of their own schooling experience.**

Examples of Student-Selected Strategies

- **Be Visible:** Know every student’s name. Greet them at the door. Show you care.
- **Create a Safe Space:** Move around the room, reduce physical distance, and foster an open, respectful classroom climate.
- **Metacognition:** Support students in reflecting on and articulating their own thinking and learning processes.
- **Actionable Feedback:** Offer timely, specific feedback students can immediately act on.
- **Address Race and Racial Dynamics:** Don’t shy away from conversations about race and identity – address them openly and supportively.
- **Connect to Students’ Lives:** Make learning relevant by tying it to students’ interests, identities, and experiences.



WHY IT WORKS

The Students' Six Process improves instructional quality, student engagement, and academic outcomes – while also reducing discipline incidents and staff turnover. It's a proven model for belonging focused, community-rooted school improvement.

01 Centers the authentic voices of students, including their real-life examples of effective practices.

02 Increases teacher receptiveness to professional development.

03 Students and teachers both benefit from classroom practices that increase success, joy, and connection.

[Watch a video](#) of students and teachers from an Oregon high school sharing their experience of Students Teaching Teachers



WHO WE ARE



APC Leadership Collaborative

APC Leadership Collaborative provides coaching, change management, and professional learning facilitation for superintendents, central office leaders, and principals who want to build schools where every student feels safe and graduates ready for what's next.

With over 90 years of combined experience across 47 states, we'll help you manage the politics, budget crises, and board meeting blowups – without losing sight of what matters most: students and staff experiencing school as a place of purpose, joy, and belonging.

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