

HAVE YOUR VOICE HEARD...

YOUTH VOICES is a statewide group of high schools students who created the Ohio Youth Agenda, communicated that agenda to leaders who make policy, and develop innovative ways to improve race relations among students across Ohio. Students in over 30 high schools have been active with Youth Voices in just the last year.

Check out what we have done and what we plan to do and if you are interested complete the information at the bottom of this page.

YOUTH VOICES-2007

FEBRUARY- students from across Ohio created the 2007 Ohio Youth Agenda aimed at making changes for educational and economic success.

MARCH- Students met with Ohio First Lady Frances Strickland and other top staff from Governor Strickland's office to support the Youth Agenda.

APRIL- Students testified before the Ohio House of Representatives and wrote and edited their statewide newspaper, the Young Ohioan.

MAY- Students engaged in urban/rural school visits.

JULY- The Governor's representative listened to Youth Voices and included the idea of peer leadership to prevent drop outs in her plan to increase high school graduation rates.

SEPTEMBER-NOVEMBER- Student organizers listened to students as they charted the progress of the Youth Agenda at their high school. New topics in the area of thriving in a multicultural society, a realistic OGT, helping students in jail, and improving teaching were added for the Youth Agenda conference.

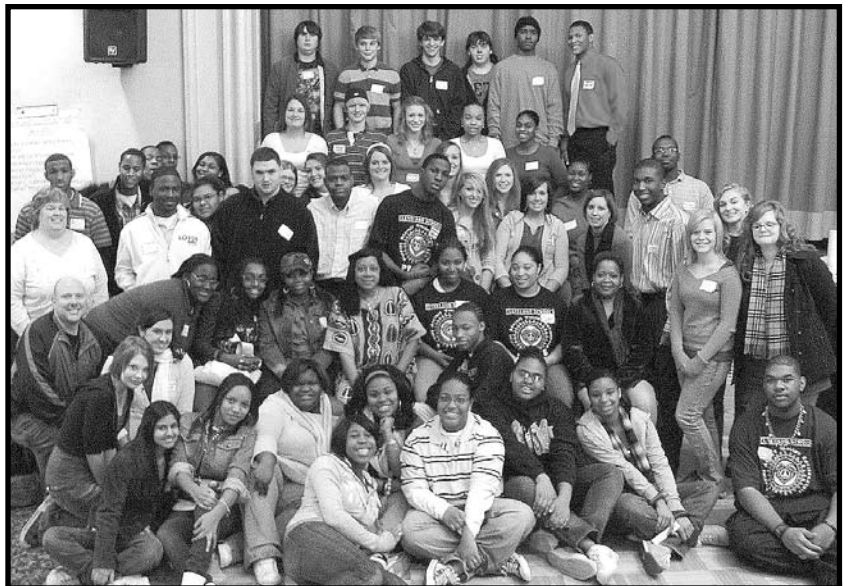
DECEMBER- Over 175 students lead the Youth Agenda conference where they created the 2008 Ohio Youth Agenda.

YOUTH VOICES-2008

JANUARY- Students registered over 3,000 new high school students as part of Youth Voices' No Vote, No Voice Voter registration campaign. That campaign received front page news coverage in Cleveland, Athens, Columbus, and Marietta.

FEBRUARY- Youth Voices held Youth Agenda forums with candidates in contested primaries for Congress and State Representative.

MARCH THROUGH MAY- Students researched components within the Youth Agenda and then will meet with policy makers in the Ohio General Assembly, Governor Strickland's staff, and other state wide leaders. Students will also begin urban/rural/suburban school visits.



These students were part of the 175 students who attended the Youth Agenda Conference to create the 2008 Ohio Youth Agenda.

Photo credit: Lisa Zellner, Ohio Federation of Teachers

KEEP IN TOUCH WITH YOUTH VOICES

Youth Voices is setting up Internet communication among supporters of the Ohio Youth Agenda. Look at the 2008 Ohio Youth Agenda on the back of this page and then complete the information below to stay connected.

I support the 2008 Ohio Youth Agenda Name _____ School _____

Person who gave you this information Name _____ School _____

Contact information for statewide connection

Email _____ Year you will graduate _____

(Please give this information to the contact person in your school or email to Daniel Ortiz at daniel.g.ortiz@gmail.com)

The Specific Items of the 2008 Ohio Youth Agenda

A. Full curriculum

1. High level academic courses
2. Career education
3. A full arts curriculum
4. A full music curriculum
5. Understanding of our place in a multicultural economy
6. A curriculum that teaches basic financial skills
7. A curriculum that teaches technological skills
8. A curriculum that prepares students for active citizen engagement
9. Opportunities for job shadowing
10. Opportunities for internships
11. High speed computer availability at school and at home.

B. Knowledgeable, flexible, and thoughtful teachers

12. Flexible teaching styles
13. Teaching beyond just to the test
14. Able to connect with students from all backgrounds and cultures
15. In classes no larger than 25 for teacher personal attention

C. Preparing and affording college

16. Knowledge about college applications and scholarships
17. An equal number of individual college and military recruiters at out high schools
18. Reduced college tuition and increased state and federal scholarships to make college affordable

D. Youth leadership to prevent violence

19. Peer mediation in schools
20. School counselors to help with mental and social problems and not just schedule classes
21. Peer run youth centers in the community focused on after school activities and peer leadership to prevent violence
22. Ways to make weapons less attainable for young people in school.

E. A realistic Ohio Graduation Test

23. Less teaching directly to the test by teachers
24. Additional ways to assess students such as projects and teaching recommendations
25. If a student just missed passing in one test by a small amount by 12th grade, use a composite score for all the tests and use the progress measure of the student since 10th grade.

F. Peer leadership and personal attention to prevent drop outs

26. Older students work directly with younger students who may drop out
27. Smaller classes for students who are having trouble staying in school
28. Individual tutoring for students having trouble

G. Active support, education, and attention while young people are in jail

29. Teaching based on their grade level
30. Small classes no larger than 15
31. Counselors who regularly prepare students to succeed when they leave
32. Opportunities for work and school when they leave

H. A Constitutional state funding system

33. Not based on passing levies to increase local property taxes
34. More funding from the state
35. Funding based on the actual cost of providing opportunities for students.