

# Ladder of Student Involvement: Examples

## **Degree of Participation (Rung 4): Students Informed and Assigned**

- A club or class is assigned a bulletin board on campus to decorate as part of a competition to highlight the PBIS expectations
- PBIS team identifies a need for a video displaying examples and non-examples of the expectations in the hallway and the drama club is given the task for developing the video
- Students provide tours of the school for guests. They discuss curriculum, program, PBIS implementation (behavior expectations, PBIS school store, reward system, behavior matrices, etc.)

## **Degree of Participation (Rung 5): Students Informed and Consulted**

- Adults on the PBIS team ask students what they would like to earn for their tickets, students provide suggestions. Possible ideas: location of the student of the month parking spot, the types of food students wanted, name your own gift card, candy bars, extra graduation tickets, tickets to sports events, yearbooks, tickets to proms/homecoming, etc.

## **Degree of Participation (Rung 6): Adult Initiated, Shared Decisions with Students**

- Student team reviews school-wide data, develops an anonymous survey based on data, then uses survey results to identify possible environmental changes to address root causes of issues (i.e., absences, tardies)
- Student PBIS team develops the definitions of school-wide expectations and ways to teach the new definitions (i.e. lesson plans, skits, songs, multi-media products)
- Administration asks student team to develop and conduct a survey of their peers asking for input as to what administration could do to decrease the chances for students to repeat behaviors resulting in an office-discipline referral (possible results: temporarily losing parking privileges on campus, temporarily losing the ability to participate in some extracurricular activities)
- Students are asked to run the school store

## **Degree of Participation (Rung 7): Student Initiated, Student-Led Decisions**

- Student team suggested the opportunity for peer-to-peer recognition along with students recognizing staff
- Students proposed to develop a different series of videos and then presented them back to the PBIS team. Schools

## **Degree of Participation (Rung 8): Student Initiated, Shared Decision Making**

- Team began with a needs assessment on how to improve PBIS at their school then followed-up with getting feedback on the reward and recognition system. These students initiated collecting feedback from their peers and then shared the results back to the PBIS team and the two groups collectively made decisions of next steps.
- Student team devised a plan for infractions for minor behaviors (i.e. tardies, dress code, etc.) where students would earn points similar to speeding tickets

**Exhibit 31**  
**The Ladder of Student Involvement Assesses the Level of Student Engagement**

8	Student-Led Decision Making Shared with Adults	Projects, classes, or activities are initiated by students, and decision making is shared among students and adults. These projects empower students while at the same time enabling them to access and learn from the life experience and expertise of adults
7	Student-Led, Student-Directed, Student-Centered Decision Making	Students initiate and direct a project, class, or activity focused only on student concerns. Adults are involved only in a supportive role
6	Adult-Led Decision Making Shared with Students	Projects, classes, or activities are initiated by adults, but the decision making is shared with the students involved
5	Adult-Led Decision Making Informed by Students' Voices	Students give advice on projects, classes, or activities designed and run by adults. The students are informed about how their input will be used and the outcomes of the decisions made by adults
4	Adult-Led Decision Making with Students Assigned to Respond	Students are assigned a specific role, told about how, and taught, why they are being involved
3	Tokenism	Students appear to be given a voice, but in fact have little or no choice about what they do or how they participate
2	Decoration	Students are used to help or bolster a cause in a relatively indirect way; adults do not pretend that the cause is inspired by students. Causes are determined by adults, and adults make all decisions
1	Manipulation	Adults use students to support causes by pretending that those causes are inspired by students

..... Degrees of Non-Involvement (1 being the lowest)  
 ..... Increasing Amount of Involvement  
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Source: Adapted with kind permission of Adam Fletcher, from Adam Fletcher, *Meaningful Student Involvement: Guide to Students as Partners in School Change*, created for SoundOut.org in partnership with HumanLinks Foundation, 2005