

CCRC Student Reports

Goal:

- Incorporate more student voices into the CCRC meetings
- Bring up the issues that our peers are passionate about
- Help inform the rest of the committee on what high school students think about climate change

Total Time: 15 minutes

Things to incorporate:

Google form with student voices:

To edit:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1MaedpBfuOpT5gByD1Ea6wVnXqGNU7smkWx22bfs16BM/edit>

To respond:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdrkw-NEZPsYF98MaQNYXac8SWS2-039dCyU4x34xNY_jLbDA/viewform?usp=sf_link

Questions to ask:

- How much do you see climate change as a problem in our modern world (0- not really a problem, 10 -)
- What changes do you want to see in school infrastructure?
- What are the most important climate related issues that you see affecting schools?
- How much does this affect your school experience? 0-10
- What do you think is the best way to go about solving these issues?

Second google form for surveying students

Questions:

- Ideas about engagement, engagement of students in climate activism. Students do not always have a lot of free time. How do students want to be engaged in climate change?
 - Through apps, technology etc.
- Where and how students want to get involved.
 - Do they want to advocate for change

CCRC Student Report #1

Talking points:

- What we are looking forward to do with our role
 - Surveying students
 - Spread the word about what PPS is doing about climate related issues
 - Bringing in student voices on how much they see climate change as a problem
 - The most important climate related issues and how that affects their experience
 - How PPS should solve these issues
- Do any of the other panel members have anything they would like to add to our survey/any other things that they want student input on.
- How we see student attitudes
 - Tess:
 - While students see climate change as an issue they doing really engage with it in their day to day, so it seems pretty unsolvable
 - Students don't see/hear about much action from the district, or know about what the district might be doing
 - It can seem pretty hopeless and not worth it to invest in climate issue because they don't know what is going on
 - Students think that climate related issue have a big impact on their school experience but don't see solutions or pathways to solutions, so they might just come to except it
 - Diego
 - Students are aware of climate change through the news and from their classes
 - Many times this influx of information can feel really daunting to students, and can often make these issues seem unsolvable instead of, conveying the need to work towards positive changes
 - Often times students can have trouble finding out where to start when it comes to getting involved with climate change
- Takeaways: What the district should do to help students get more involved?

- Action starts with an understanding of what's currently happening, which students don't really have
- More outreach to help students get involved
 - There are a lot of great opportunities for students to get involved with climate change like the design team and Climate Justice Youth Advisory, but it is equally important that we communicate these activities with students.
 - Many students are looking for opportunities to get involved but the resources aren't easy to find, this could mean trying to get the word out to the specific school's community

CCRC Student Report #2

Structure:

- Reintroduce the survey
 - How much do you see climate change as a problem in our modern world (0 - 10)
 - What changes do you want to see in school infrastructure?
 - What are the most important climate related issues that you see affecting schools?
 - How much does this affect your school experience? 0-10
 - What do you think is the best way to go about solving these issues?
- Talk about our findings
 - 24 responses
 - How much do you see climate change as a problem in our modern world (0 - 10)
 - Average was 8.3
 - What are the most important climate related issues that you see affecting schools?
 - Heat waves
 - Snow days
 - Classroom temperatures, AC issues
 - Excess waste from school lunches
 - Building in need of a remodel
 - How much does this affect your school experience? (0 - 10)
 - Average was 5.9
 - How do you think the school district should solve these issues?
 - Air conditioning
 - Educate students and families
 - More healthy and local foods in school lunch
 - Compostable utensils
 - School gardens
 - Remodeling schools to make them more energy efficient
- Some specific responses:
 - “I think that wildfires are a very important issue affecting schools because the smoke can affect the health of the children and people that work in these schools.

Also the extreme weather conditions like heat and snow is greatly disrupting children's learning by keeping them away from schools.”

- “Lack of prep for climate change or lack of green spaces”
- “I’ve noticed how hot the schools can get once the weather warms up. It can really make it more difficult to learn when you’re trying not to overheat.”
- School districts now are greatly contributing to climate change because of the amount of waste they are producing. Schools should be better at teaching children how to be more conscious of the world around them and how to reduce their contribution to waste. If more people start working to improve their habits it will have a great effect on the state of our world.
- “I think that a potential solution to the lack of healthy local food in schools is to have gardens/ hoop houses on site for the schools to grow healthy greens for the students. I request that you take a moment to ponder the scale of the pollution and injustice that shipping in factory made food causes to us all. Then take a moment to ponder how much better it would be if the food didn't have to be shipped in by trucks. I feel like pps is missing out on an opportunity to improve their efficiency, costs to feed the commons, and a prime chance to educate students on sustainable practice”
- Many student didn't have a concrete idea of what schools could do to solve these issues
- Our takeaways
 - Students see climate change as a very pressing issue
 - They are already starting to see how climate change is affecting their experience at school and this is only likely to increase as the effects of climate change progress
 - Student don't have a clear idea of how to solve these issue, there is a lack of education
- Our questions for the group?
 - What other questions would you like us/future student representatives to investigate?

- Ideas about engagement, engagement of students in climate activism.
Students do not always have a lot of free time. How do students want to be engaged in climate change?
 - Through apps, technology etc.
- Where and how students want to get involved.
 - Do they want to advocate for change
- Decarbonization roadmap
 - how we prioritize and measure health measure and impacts
- How do we think we can use these findings to inform the board?
 - We do have a report
 - include a section about the surveys and student report

Summary of the CCRC Student Reports for the CCRC Annual Report

Main takeaways from the student reports:

- Often times students can have trouble finding out where to start when it comes to getting involved with climate change
- Action starts with an understanding of what's currently happening, which students don't really have
- More outreach to help students get involved

Student report summary

As student representatives, we surveyed almost 30 high school students from across the district and compiled some general student attitudes towards climate action from our experiences among our peers. We hope that the concerns and experiences of students remain a central focus in the implementation of PPS climate policy. From the survey, students reported that climate change is a very pressing issue in their lives. In particular, they reported on how climate change affects their daily life at school, citing examples ranging from dealing with uncomfortable classroom temperatures to missing school entirely due to snow days. With the ever increasing impact of climate change on student's lives and the influx of unsettling information about climate change, these issues can seem daunting to students. In addition to this, for the students who are looking to get involved, students can oftentimes struggle with where to start and where to find climate related opportunities. To help address these issues, we see it as essential to find more ways to reach students about climate related opportunities and what PPS is doing to address climate change, while expanding the pre-existing pathways for students to get involved. Not only are students ready to engage with climate advocacy, they are also bringing their own ideas as well. In the survey, students offered ideas ranging from creating more school gardens to remodeling buildings and implementing more effective and energy efficient AC systems.

Student voices will help inform the board where to focus resources to impact the student directly.

Some points that stood out were:

- While students see climate change as an issue they feel that it is pretty unsolvable
- Students are aware of climate change through the news and from their classes

- Students don't see/hear about much action from the district, or know about what the district might be doing
- Often students can have trouble finding out where to start when it comes to getting involved with climate change contributing to that hopelessness

Students feel stuck when it comes to taking action, this is not for a lack of opportunity but a lack of outreach.

Survey results:

- Students ranked climate change as a big issue in society, and many talked about issues that directly affected them:
- Heat waves
- Snow days
- Classroom temperatures, AC issues
- Excess waste from school lunches
- Building in need of a remodel

These had a moderate effect on the overall school experience. And some solutions they came up with include:

- Air conditioning
- Educate students and families
- More healthy and local foods in school lunch
- Compostable utensils
- School gardens
- Remodeling schools to make them more energy-efficient