Multi-Grade-Level Events in High School

High School
A great way to further open up the high schools currently open to the community is hosting various events (movie nights, sports games targeted at feeder schools) for the local elementary and middle schools. Doing so results in a better sense of community as positive relationships develop between high school and middle level/elementary students.
Helps Meet Criteria: 1, 7, 8

Student Anti-Bullying

Middle Level
In middle school, many transitions are going on, and mindsets are still developing. We believe that this is a crucial time to ensure school safety. By organizing an anti-bullying campaign, student leaders can establish a student-supported safe school environment.
Helps Meet Criteria: 1, 2

Community Park Cleanup

All Levels
In order to create a more supported and ultimately successful climate for student achievement, we must cultivate a sense of unity and service among the community. An all-age community event such as a simple park cleanup put on by student leaders creates a positive and cohesive relationship with otherwise uninvolved community members.
Helps Meet Criteria: 7

Inclusion/Awareness

High School, Middle Level
Student leaders have a unique and significant opportunity to advocate for a change to the status quo. In an era where definitive laws exist against discrimination, it is essential that the needs of all students—regardless of circumstance—be met. With that mindset, it is key that any events with the purpose of promoting inclusion are not acts of charity, but acts of justice. Those who we look to include must be treated as friends and colleagues, rather than “projects.”
Helps Meet Criteria: 1, 2, 8

Elementary Assemblies

All Levels
Provide opportunities for high school and middle school leadership programs to put on assemblies for elementary students concerning integral focuses of their own leadership programs (i.e. kindness, honesty, respect, etc.)
Helps Meet Criteria: 1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 8

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Student-LED STRATEGIES
For Meeting the Principal Evaluation Criteria

Compiled by the AWSL Student Steering Committee

As part of the development of the Association of Washington Student Leaders (AWSL) is to deepen the partnership between principals and student leaders. We believe that student leaders in your schools are in a unique position to help you expand the eight principal evaluation criteria from just principal leadership to entire school leadership. With the whole school involved, (1) Creating a Culture, (2) Ensuring School Safety, (3) Planning with Data, (4) Aligning Curriculum, (5) Improving Instruction, (6) Managing Resources, (7) Engaging Communities, and (8) Closing the Gap become much more inclusive.

As the Student Steering Committee for the Association of Washington Student Leaders, we created these belief statements to guide the work of student leaders. (See next page.)

On the following pages, you'll find a collection of ideas and activities for student leaders that demonstrate how their leadership can connect to the eight criteria. These examples are just a start. We encourage you to share the AWSL Leadership Framework with your student leaders and show them these examples. Students can be your strongest partners in achieving your dreams for your school.
Inclusive Games/
Workshops

High School with Middle Level and Elementary Students

Grade-level integration is one way to close the gap, and allowing older students to teach inclusive games and provide leadership workshops to younger students.

Mentor programs help everyone feel included.

Helps Meet Criteria: 1, 2, 8

Themed assemblies help create an inclusive school culture.

Unified Theme Assembly

High School

Creating a culture needs to be synergetic and involve everyone. One way to create an inclusive culture is with a themed assembly. For example, this assembly might cover the school’s yearly goals. When the message comes from their peers, students may feel more inclined to participate.

Helps Meet Criteria: 1, 2, 8

Yard Signs

High School

How often do you get the chance to see high school spirit displayed in the surrounding community? One easy, student-driven way to engage the community is to distribute election-style yard signs that read, “Home of a Proud [mascot]” or “Proud Supporter of the [school sports team here].”

Helps Meet Criteria: 1, 7

Teacher Appreciation

All Levels

Happy teachers who feel valued are more likely to invest in their students. Teacher appreciation can take place in all grade levels. In elementary school, cut outs of a teacher or staff member’s picture can be paired with positive words about the teacher taped or written around a border. Middle school students can cut out hand shapes and give five fabulous adjectives about their teachers and staff. High school students can go a touch farther and put a poster on teacher and staff doors/offices with a letter of appreciation and excitement for the coming year.

Helps Meet Criteria: 1

Bracelets/T-Shirts

All Levels

There’s nothing easier than unifying a group of people at any age with a matching tee shirt. Depending on age, things like custom “Silly Bands” are another fun connector.

Helps Meet Criteria: 1, 2, 7

Bilingual Outreach

High School

Home life can affect the success of students. Student leaders can do their part by reaching out to even those families that do not speak English. One easy way to help these families is by sending out the school newsletter/other announcements in their language. In doing so, students are helping to close that gap, as well as engage the community.

Helps Meet Criteria: 1, 7, 8

RSVP

All Levels

One potential way for students to reinforce the student body’s voice is through an RSVP program (Raising Student Voice and Participation). Via school summits, electronic polls or slips of paper, student leaders can practice planning using data, creating a culture, and closing the gap by getting tangible feedback on ways to improve the school.

Helps Meet Criteria: 1, 7, 8

GPA Goals

All Levels

In order to create a positive and unified culture and close the gap, student leaders can work with the student body to set a goal for an average GPA, attendance record, or other school success target. This helps to provide the student body with a common goal.

Helps Meet Criteria: 1, 3, 4, 5, 8

AWSL Belief Statements:

Criterion 1: We believe students and staff thrive in a culture where they feel valued and supported.

Criterion 2: We believe every student deserves to experience physical and emotional safety which leads to belongingness and success.

Criterion 3: We believe principals are informed best with data collected by student leaders who can articulate the voice of their fellow students.

Criterion 4: We believe in making it a priority to increase student learning by developing new study strategies and leading by example in the classroom environment.

Criterion 5: We believe classroom instruction can be improved by giving teachers feedback and actively participating in class.

Criterion 6: We believe student leaders must establish a relationship with principals in order to properly use ASB funds and maintain resources within the school.

Criterion 7: We believe that as student leaders, we have an obligation to make our schools active members in our communities.

 Criterion 8: We believe student leaders need to advocate for equitable opportunities to promote the success of all students regardless of circumstance.