On July 18, 2018, thousands of children enrolled in the CDF Freedom Schools program took action to make their voices heard through the 2018 National Day of Social Action: Voter Engagement. Children, families, and community members gathered to learn about the power of voting, and to discuss the issues that matter to them. Adults had the opportunity to register to vote, and children cast their own ballots in a National Children’s Vote.

The Contenders:

- Education
- Healthcare
- Youth Justice
- Gun Violence
- Poverty

Scholars were given the choice of 5 major issue areas, and voted for their top 3.

The National Winners!*  
Here are the top 3 issues CDF Freedom Schools Scholars said they care about most in 2018:

1. Education
2. Healthcare
3. Gun Violence

*Based on votes submitted online by July 24, 2018.

Children’s Vote – Top Issue by Geographic Region

- West
- Southwest
- Midwest
- Southeast
- Northeast

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Scholars share why these issues matter to them.

*Children deserve to be safe and children deserve second chances.* Age 10-11, Southwest

*Education is very important. Protect children not guns! Giving food or money to the homeless is something my family does.* Age 8-9, Midwest

Youth justice will let the youth voice be heard. Health [care] will take care of the youth and gun violence will hurt the youth and others. Age 12-13, Northeast

*Kids need an education so when you mess up you can start over.* Age 4-5, West

So people won’t have to feel wrath of guns, so children can have dreams, and people won’t starve. Age 10-11, Southwest

No child should starve. *Children are dying from sickness and disease. Children are the future and they should be able to make it to there.* Age 14-15, Midwest

Because we want [kids] to succeed in the big world. Age 8-9, Southeast