What is Youth Engagement?
There are many definitions of engagement – here are a few of our favorites:

- “We define student voice as student participation and decision-making in the structures and practices that shape their educational experiences.” – Definition of student voice from Boston’s Rennie Center for Educational Research and Policy
- “Engagement is a multi-faceted construct that encompasses students’ sense of belonging and connectedness to their school, teachers and peers; their sense of agency, self-efficacy and orientation to achieve within their classrooms and in their broader extra-curricular endeavours; their involvement, effort, levels of concentration and interest in subjects and learning in general; and the extent to which learning is enjoyed for its own sake, or seen as something that must be endured to receive a reward or avoid sanction...” – Definition of student engagement from New Zealand authors Gibbs and Poskitt
- “Youth engagement is the result when young people are involved in responsible, challenging actions to create positive social change. This means involving youth in planning and in making decisions that affect themselves and others. Youth engagement happens in youth-adult partnerships that are structured so that both groups contribute, teach, and learn from each other.” - Definition of youth engagement from the ACT for Youth Center for Community Action at Cornell University

Resources for Youth Engagement
Federal Governmental Documents

- Child welfare - https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USACFCBCS/bulletins/26cf2dd
- Teen or young parents - https://youth.gov/youth-topics/expectant-parenting-young-families
- Youth in need of K12 prevention programs - https://youth.gov/youth-topics/TAG/game-plan/approaches
Publications

- **Connect: Supporting Student Participation** - http://www.asprinworld.com/Connect1/
- **Mockingbird Times** - https://www.mockingbirdsoociety.org/mockingbirdtimes

Organizations

- **Association of Washington School Leaders** - https://awsleaders.org/
- **CERC Youth Advisory Council (Connecticut)** - https://ctserc.org/about/serc-programs/youth
- **Community Passageways (alternatives for incarcerated youth)** - https://www.communitypassageways.org/
- **FEEST** - https://feestseattle.org/
- **Gender Odyssey Youth Program** - http://www.genderodyssey.org/youth-program/
- **GRUB** - https://www.goodgrub.org/
- **International Association of Peer Supporters** - https://www.inaops.org/
- **Oasis Youth Center Tacoma** - https://www.facebook.com/OasisYouthCenter/
- **OSPI Career and Technical Education Student Organizations** - https://www.k12.wa.us/student-success/career-technical-education-cte/student-leadership
- **PFLAG Youth** - https://pflag.org/tags/youth
- **Raising Student Voice and Participation** - https://awsleaders.org/rsrp
- **Statewide Youth Leadership Network (behavioral health and cross-systems, forming in 2020)** – Reach out to Evelyn.Clark@hca.wa.gov
• **Storytellers for Change** - [https://www.storytellersforchange.org/](https://www.storytellersforchange.org/)
• **Student Voice (national)** - [https://www.stuvoice.org/](https://www.stuvoice.org/)
• **Tacoma Youth Philanthropy Board** - [https://www.gtcf.org/initiatives/youth-program-grants/](https://www.gtcf.org/initiatives/youth-program-grants/)
• **UP for Learning (Vermont)** - [https://www.upforlearning.org/](https://www.upforlearning.org/)
• **Youth Activism Project (national)** - [https://youthactivismproject.org/](https://youthactivismproject.org/)
• **Youth Move National (national)** - [https://youthmovenational.org/](https://youthmovenational.org/)
• **Youth On Board (national)** - [https://www.youthonboard.org/](https://www.youthonboard.org/)
• **Youth Service America (national)** - [https://ysa.org/](https://ysa.org/)

**Research Articles and Summaries**


**Events**

**GLSEN Youth Leadership Conference** - https://www.glsen.org/event/2020-lgbtq-youth-leadership-conference

**Latino/a Educational Achievement Project Conference** - http://www.leapwa.org/

**Race and Pedagogy Youth Summit** - https://www.pugetsound.edu/academics/academic-resources/race-pedagogy-institute/youth-summit/

**Seattle Youth Climate Action Summit** - https://www.zoo.org/sycan

**The Mockingbird Society Youth Summit** - https://www.mockingbirdsoociety.org/annual-events/youth-leadership-summit


**Grants**

**Ashoka Youth Venture** - https://www.ashoka.org/en-us/program/nominate-ashoka-young-changemaker


**SBA (Small Business Administration) Young Entrepreneurs** - https://youth.gov/federal-links/sba-small-business-administration-young-entrepreneurs

Note: This list of resources receives updates regularly and is not exhaustive. Please reach out to Greg Williamson, Director of Youth Engagement, with any questions at greg.williamson@dcyf.wa.gov.