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**AYPF Study Tour: The Use of Student Surveys for Teacher Professional Development  
Denver, Colorado**

**October 20-22, 2014**

**AGENDA**

**The Curtis, a Doubletree by Hilton, 1405 Curtis St, Denver, CO 80202**

This study tour will examine the use of student voice in the continuous improvement of teaching and learning. While many schools, districts, and states include academic performance measures and periodic peer/principal observation as data used to improve upon teaching practices, few take into account the observations of the students themselves. Not all policymakers and practitioners are convinced that student voice is reliable, consistent, and impactful, or they are unaware of how to effectively incorporate student voice. Yet, spending hundreds of hours as they do in classrooms, students are keen observers of this environment, and can provide valid and reliable feedback about classroom life and teaching practices.

This study tour will provide participants an opportunity to learn about the use of high quality student surveys that have been developed by the Colorado Education Initiative and by Denver Public Schools. Participants will be able to examine efforts to implement the use of student feedback as a way to enhance evaluation systems and professional learning for educators. Emphasis will be placed on recognizing that students can be good observers, that there is variation in teaching quality, and that the purpose of these surveys needs to be professional growth of all educators. Participants will hear from district-level staff about the implementation of surveys, how teacher buy-in was attained, and attendant challenges and successes. They will visit a school and engage with teachers, principals, and students from a variety of districts, as they discuss the use of surveys at the school level – how students are engaged in providing feedback and how teachers and principals are incorporating that information into their learning and growth. Participants will also learn about the role of higher education in this endeavor. Time will also be devoted on the trip to examining the policy implications of integrating student surveys into teacher evaluations and the weight which surveys have been given in teacher evaluations.

In preparation for this trip, participants will be provided with a forum brief to read on the implementation of student surveys in Colorado.

**Monday, October 20, 2014**

**4:30 – 5:00pm At hotel, Kick the Can Room:** Welcome and introduction to AYPF, and review of tour goals

**5:00 – 6:00pm Kick the Can Room: Setting the Stage: A Review of State Policy on Teacher Professional Development and the work of the Colorado Education Initiative**

**Katy Anthes,** Executive Director of Educator Effectiveness, Colorado Department of Education, and **Amy Farley, The Colorado Education Initiative  
Katy** will provide an overview of state policy on teacher evaluations, including the passage in 2010 of Senate Bill 191, which governs teacher evaluations. **Amy** will discuss the work of The Colorado Education Initiative that works with the state department of education to build capacity within districts and their work on the development of the Student Perception Survey.

**6:30 – 8:00pm Dodgeball Room: Dinner and Presentation on Student Perception Surveys  
Amy Farley** will provide an overview of the free instrument developed for use by districts. She will discuss the value of these surveys, and how they were developed and are being implemented in a variety of districts. She will also talk about work underway to engage the higher education community in including student perception surveys in their teacher preparation programs. This presentation will set the stage for site visits to a school the next day that are using the Student Perception Surveys.   
**Linda Barker**, Director of Teaching and Learning, Colorado Education Association, will discuss how the teachers’ union was included in the development and messaging of the survey.

**Tuesday, October 21, 2014**

**6:30 – 7:15am Breakfast Available at hotel – Dodgeball Room**

**7:30am Board Bus for site visit to Thompson School District**

**9:00am – 10:30am Site visit at Thompson District office,** 800 S. Taft Ave, Loveland, CO

Participants will hear from district officials and teachers on special assignment about their roles in using the Student Perception Surveys. Teachers on special assignment will talk about their role as educator effectiveness coaches, and the support they provide to teachers in schools. Panelists include:

**Michelle Logan**, TOSA, Instructional Coach  
**Kendra Vair**, Educator Effectiveness Coach (TOSA)  
**Emily Yenny**, TOSA  
**Kristina Smith**, Strategic Data Specialist  
**Jeri Cripe**, Director of Secondary Education

**10:30 – 10:45am Break**

**10:45a – 12:00pm Visit with Thompson Valley High School principal, Lanny Hass and students (Includes lunch at this site, which remains the district office)**

Participants will hear from Lanny Hass how the surveys have been implemented at his school. They will also engage with a panel of students regarding how the surveys are used in the school, and how results are impacting school culture and teacher professional development. Discussion will focus on how students view the opportunity to provide feedback and how teachers are being supported once they receive their feedback. The role of teacher leaders in providing professional development will be addressed.

**12:00pm Board bus and return to Denver**

**2pm – 3:30pm At hotel, Kick the Can Room: Panel Discussion: Student Perception Survey in a Variety of Districts**This panel will be moderated by **Sarah Duran,** Associate, Research and Impact, The Colorado Education Initiative. It will feature district staff and principals from a variety of districts, including rural districts. Participants will learn how the student surveys were piloted in these districts, implementation processes, and the use of survey results in teacher development.Panelists include:

**Matt Klausmeier,** Data Fellow, San Juan BOCES  
**Becky Smith,** District Liaison, Bayfield School District  
**Julia Kantor**, Consultant  
**Jennie Whitcomb**, Associate Dean for Teacher Education, CU Boulder

**3:30 – 3:40pm Break**

**3:40 – 4:15pm Kick the Can Room: Participant Debrief**

Participants will have an opportunity to reflect on their learning to date, discuss questions they might have, and consider the implications for policy and practice. They will contemplate questions such as:

* How can the student survey results be used to improve practice?
* What happens once schools are provided with the results?
* What happens when these surveys are used for accountability?
* How do teachers react to the surveys, and what can be done to ensure teacher buy-in?
* How do the surveys take into account ELL students and cultural sensitivity?

**6pm Dodgeball Room: Networking Dinner at hotel**

**7pm Dodgeball Room: Presentation: Rob Ramsdell, Tripod Education Partners  
Classroom Level Student Surveys: Lessons Learned and Opportunities to Maximize Impact on Professional Learning**

Based on his experience working with states and districts across the US, Rob Ramsdell will share perspectives on a range of opportunities and challenges associated with efforts to incorporate student surveys. Participants will learn about changes in policies related to teacher evaluation that have led some states and districts to implement large-scale programs involving classroom level student surveys, and will also hear about states and districts that have chosen not to incorporate these measures. Participants will also have a chance to explore factors that have limited the impact of student surveys, such as teacher buy-in, union engagement, sustainability, and relevance to school improvement initiatives.

**Wednesday, October 22, 2014**

**7:00 – 8:00am Breakfast at hotel – Kick the Can Room**

**8:00 – 8:45 am Kick the Can Room - Overview: Using Evaluative Student Surveys for Teacher Growth  
Kendra Wilhelm,** Senior Program Manager, LEAP (Leading Effective Academic Practice); **Theress Pidick, Director,** Teacher DevelopmentandLeadership, Denver Public Schools; **Nicole Wolden,** Senior Manager,LEAP; **Karen Herbert,** Sr. Manager Student Outcomes; **Keith Roybal,** Denver Classroom Teachers Association LiaisonAn overview will be provided of Denver Public School’s system of evaluating the performance and supporting the growth of teachers, as well as the student survey developed for use in Denver Public Schools. Presenters will also discuss planned enhancements to professional development, ongoing survey design and results of data analysis and how these inform plans moving forward.

**8:45 – 11:30am Kick the Can Room: Panel Discussions with DPS District Staff, Principals, Teachers, Teacher Union officials, and Students  
  
8:45 – 9:30am - Teacher Development and Leadership  
Karen Herbert** will moderate a discussion with a panel of teachers and principals, talking about successful uses of SPS results to improve teacher practice, and how it informs the development of  professional development provided to all teachers and the supports in place to help them integrate student survey feedback into their practice.    
They will focus on questions such as:

* How have they discussed Student Perception Survey (SPS) data as useful feedback?
* How have they used SPS data to improve practice?
* Have any used the SPS to inform or adjust team-wide or school-wide professional development? If they have not done that, how might they approach it?
* Have they used to data to adjust anything in the school overall?

**9:30 – 10:30am Hands-on Activity about Professional Learning Tools**

**10:30 – 11:15am Student Voice  
Presenter: Danielle Ongart, Board Member, Project Voyce**This panel of students will discuss how student learning is facilitated when students are provided with opportunity to comment on the instruction and support from their teachers.Attention will also be paid to the work being done with Project Voyce on the use of student voice in the classroom. Topics to be addressed will include:

* How do students understand how their voice has an impact on teachers and why it is important?
* Do students feel they have been heard?
* What is the impact at the classroom level when a teacher receives this kind of feedback?
* Do you feel like you and your peers take the opportunities for feedback seriously?
* Can you describe an experience where a teacher took your feedback?
* Is there something that you as a student want us to know about student feedback that we have not asked you?

**11:15 – 11:30am Final Q&A, and panelists and students depart**

**11:30am - 12:00pm Final Debrief on the Study Tour**Study tour participants will have an opportunity to reflect on their learning, and discuss how they will integrate the lessons learned into their own work.

**12:00pm Board bus to the airport/Box Lunch provided**