**AYPF Study Tour: The Use of Student and Teacher Surveys for School Improvement   
Chicago, Illinois**

**April 15-17, 2015**

This study tour will examine the use of student and teacher school climate surveys 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 and teachers themselves. Not all policymakers and practitioners are convinced that student and teacher voice is reliable, consistent, and impactful, or they are unaware of how to effectively incorporate these voices. 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 and teacher surveys which have been developed by the University of Chicago and used in the Chicago Public Schools and the state of Illinois. Participants will be able to examine efforts to implement the use of student and teacher feedback as a way to enhance school climate and the learning students experience. 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 two schools and engage with teachers, principals, and students as they discuss the use of surveys at the school level – how students and teachers are engaged in providing feedback and how teachers and principals are incorporating that information into their learning and growth. Time will also be devoted on the trip to examining the policy implications of using the surveys for principal and school accountability.

In preparation for this trip, participants will be asked to review a webinar on surveys by Elaine Allensworth, where she reviews the research base for the 5Essentials Survey. They will also be provided with links to AYPF forum briefs on this topic.

**Wednesday, April 15, 2015**

**4:30 – 5:00pm Location:** Renaissance Chicago O’Hare – 8500 West Bryn Mawr Avenue, Chicago, IL, 60631

Welcome and introduction to the American Youth Policy Forum

**5:00 – 6:00pm Setting the Stage: A Review of State Use of Surveys**

**Julie Evans,** Center for Performance Supervisor at the Illinois State Board of Education. Julie will provide an overview of state policy on the use of student and teacher surveys.

**6:30 – 8:00pm Dinner and Presentation on the Research behind the Surveys**

**Elaine Allensworth, author *of Organizing Schools for Improvement* and director at UChicagoCCSR,** will provide research behind the surveys, their history, and their use for policy evaluation in Chicago and Illinois. She will be joined by **John Barker, Chief Accountability Officer, Chicago Public Schools,** who will discuss the district’s use of surveys.

**Thursday, April 16, 2015**

**6:00 – 6:45am Breakfast Available at hotel**

**6:45am Board Bus for school site visit**6420 South University Avenue, Chicago, IL 60637  
(773) 752-8101

**8:00am – 12:00pm Site visit at UCCS Woodlawn Campus Director: Assata Moore**

**Panel: District Use of Surveys  
Moderator: John Barker, Chief Accountability Officer, Chicago Public Schools   
(8:15 – 8:45am)**

**School Site visit:** Participants will have an opportunity to talk to the principal, a panel of teachers, and a panel of students, regarding how the surveys are used in the school, and how results have an impact on school culture. Discussion will focus on how students and teachers view the opportunity to provide feedback and how principals are being supported once they receive the feedback on the school climate.

**12:00 – 12:10pm** **Walk to University of Chicago, Chapin Hall – Room 119**1313 E 60th St, Chicago, IL 60637

**12:10 – 1:00pm Lunch at Chapin Hall, Room 119**

**1pm – 3:30pm Location: University of Chicago, Chapin Hall – Room 119**1313 E 60th St, Chicago, IL 60637

**Rachel Levenstein, Senior Manager for Survey Research, UChicago Consortium on Chicago School Research,** will discuss the development, modification and testing of the survey.

**Molly Quish, Senior Project Manager, 5Essentials, and Elliot Ransom, 5Essentials Directory, UChicagoImpact** will discuss the implementation of the surveys.

**3:30pm Board bus for hotel:** Renaissance Chicago O’Hare   
8500 West Bryn Mawr Avenue, Chicago, IL, 60631

**4:30– 5:00pm 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 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 and principals react to the surveys, and what can be done to ensure teacher and administrator buy-in?
* How do the surveys take into account ELL students and cultural sensitivity?

**6pm Networking Dinner at hotel**

**Friday, April 17, 2015**

**6:30am – 7:30 am Breakfast**

**7:30am Board Bus for school site visit**1717 17th St, North Chicago, IL 60064 (847) 578-7400

**8:15am – 11:15am Site visit at North Chicago Community Unit School District 187  
Presentation:** Joel Pollack, Deputy Superintendent of Instruction  
**Principal:** Krystal Thomas   
School Site Visit

**11:15am Depart to airport (boxed lunch provided) and Debrief**