

## STUDENTS ACROSS ONTARIO ARE SPEAKING UP ABOUT STUDENT COUNCILS

Join the conversation! Sign-up your school for the Student Voice Survey at [fluidsurveys.com/s/studentcouncils](http://fluidsurveys.com/s/studentcouncils).

Your feedback and ideas from the survey will ensure this guide keeps improving. **You can also share your ideas with** your Student Senate, your Student Trustee and the Minister's Student Advisory Council.

## SUGGESTIONS FOR STUDENT COUNCIL IMPROVEMENTS

### Meetings

- Schedule meetings for the entire year and share the dates with all students.
- Create and share an agenda with all students at the beginning of the year.
- Record minutes and keep financial documents to inform future councils.
- Open meetings to all students to allow them to participate with questions or concerns.
- Ensure each grade and education pathway is represented on student council.

### Subcommittees

- Offer positions and leadership roles for students in every grade.
- Create subcommittees to address current issues; invite all interested students to join.

### Communication

- Communicate regularly within the council and the school (e.g., listserv, Twitter, Facebook, etc.)
- Survey students for their opinions on school issues; conduct school-wide surveys.
- Report back to students about how their ideas have been used.

### Elections

- Nominate council candidates based on qualifications and skills.
- Ensure elections are anonymous and focused on the candidates' platforms.
- Match elected student skill sets with council positions.

### Issues

- Promote students on council as representatives of the student voice, not just event planners.
- Ensure council representatives are available to the student population.
- Remind council representatives that they are elected to represent the views of all students.

# STUDENT COUNCIL AND STUDENT VOICE: A CALL FOR STUDENT LEADERS

WATCH  
THE VIDEO!  
READ  
THIS GUIDE!



SPEAKUP

## SCHOOLS THAT LISTENS ARE SCHOOLS THAT WORK: A SELF-ASSESSMENT GUIDE FOR STUDENT COUNCILS

From 2010 to 2012, over 600 students imagined new ways of contributing to their school communities. They came from across the province to regional forums or served on the Minister's Student Advisory Council. They shared their ideas on student council and leadership. They said that student advocacy and citizenship needs to include more student voices. They talked about the role that schools can play to help students become leaders and change-makers through training and support.

Students told us that student councils should:

- find better ways to empower all student voices
- be empowered to be more than fundraisers and dance organizers
- strengthen academic engagement
- represent the diversity of the student body.

This guide was developed to offer ideas for:

- student councils to assess student involvement
- schools to set and achieve student voice goals.

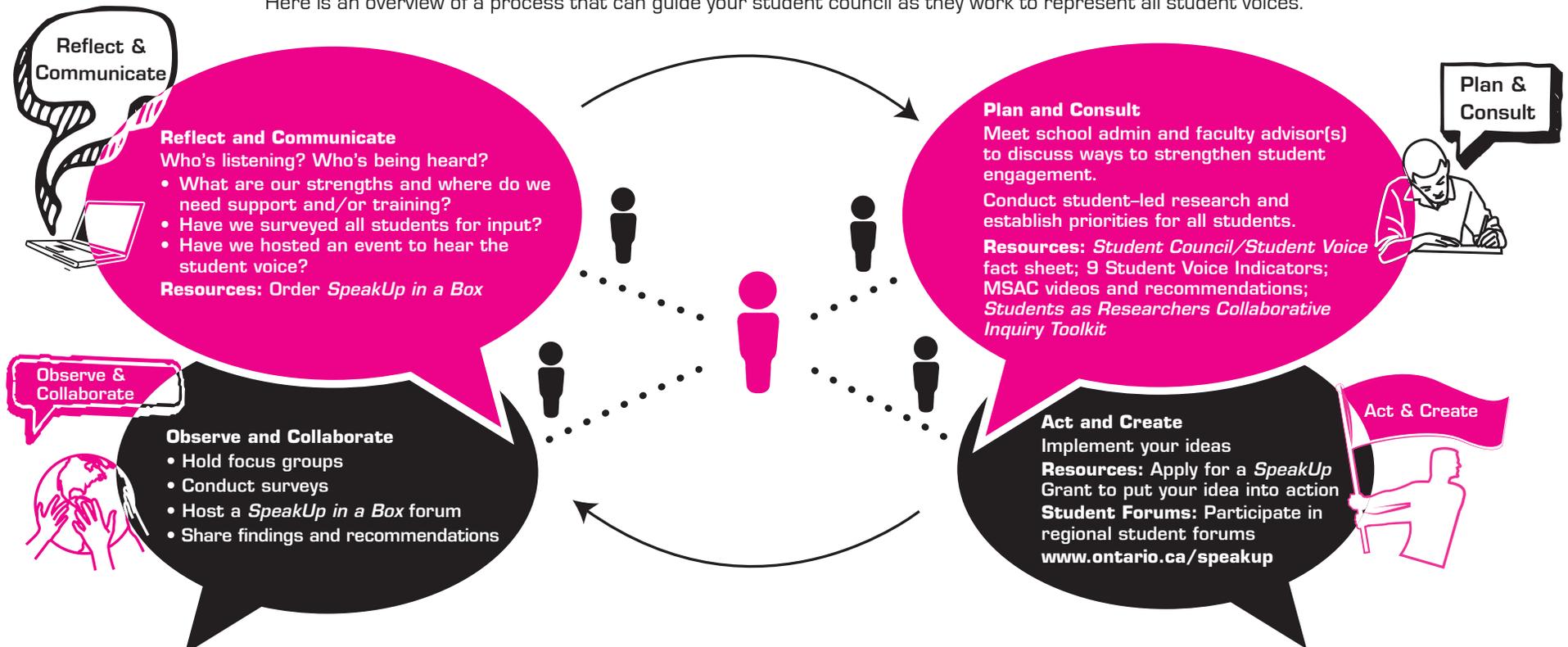
## STUDENT COUNCIL SELF-ASSESSMENT TOOL

Use this checklist to evaluate what your student council is doing now, and to decide where you would like to take it in the future.

Does our student council:	We have this already	We want this in the future
Reflect the diversity of our student population?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Consult and report back to all students?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Share the same vision as the student body?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Function democratically?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Promote student voice?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Work in partnership with students, parents, teachers, and administrators?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Have a constitution that was developed with student input?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

## INVOLVING ALL STUDENT VOICES ON STUDENT COUNCIL

Here is an overview of a process that can guide your student council as they work to represent all student voices.



Resources can be ordered by emailing [studentengagement@ontario.ca](mailto:studentengagement@ontario.ca)