



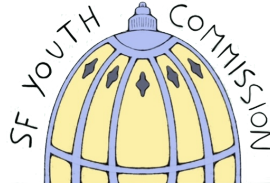
San Francisco Youth Commission District 10 Student Success Fund Listening Session

On July 20th, 2023, the San Francisco Youth Commission conducted its first Student Success Fund Listening Session in District 10 at the Southeast Community Center. The purpose serves to bring in student and youth input on how the Student Success Fund should be allocated at San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD) public schools. The listening session also brought in legislative aides, Jennifer Ferrigno and Imelda Carrasco, from Supervisor Ronen's office to give updates on when and how the Student Success Fund will be enacted and distributed. Charter schools are not part of the list of eligible schools. Below is a summary of what services and programs the youth participants who attended the D10 Listening Session indicated should be allocated towards.

In District 10, there are several challenges that are present that contribute to the need for certain programs and services. The challenges are 1) lack of afterschool activities, 2) lack of variety of subject areas especially catered to creativity, 3) unmodernized school courses, 4) various distractions in the surrounding environment, 5) not enough emotional and mental health support, 6) not enough diversity in school staff, and 7) adapting to a new environment, especially for new immigrant students.

To address these challenges, the youth participants suggested funding the following to improve the school environment and help the whole student:

- 1) A variety of modernized school programs and after-school activities can engage students of different interests and needs. While schools have been pushing academic-related activities and lessons for students, there's a need for different learning areas and classes that are up-to-date and culturally competent that students are interested in learning, such as technology, creative arts, life skills, college preparedness, socioemotional classes, etc. In addition to in-school-related courses, after-school activities, and programs are essential to keeping students from falling into the cycle of violence. There is a need for more enrichment field trips to expose students to different interests, summer bridge programs to ease the transition between school grades, book clubs, school and community sports teams, employment and workforce development programs, etc.
- 2) To help students stay focused in classes, the basic needs of the student must be addressed. Many from families with working parents often go to school on an empty stomach. Schools should be a reliable source of providing nutritious meals to them. Since the school buses were taken away, students often have to rely on public transportation to get to school. However, it's been seen over the years that public transportation has not been the most reliable way to get students to school on time,



many times resulting in students getting detention. Thus, there is a need to fund reliable and safe modes of public transportation for students to and from school. SFUSD should also have adequate resources in place to help teen parents come back to finish their education so that they're equipping the necessary skills to provide for their families.

- 3) Socialization is one of the most important factors to keep students and youth engaged in their community, and school teachers and staff are part of making that happen. The youth participants asked for a more engaging community with teachers being involved with what is happening with the student's physical, emotional, and mental well-being. Additionally, school faculty could provide more help for students who need extra help. However, that comes with better incentives and more sustainability for teachers and staff to feel adequately compensated for their work and time. These changes can also help with hiring more staff, such as teachers, social workers, and administration, that come from the same roots as and look like the student population.
- 4) The school environment that students study and spend their day in is also very important. Youth participants expressed that some funds should be used to improve the school building, to have better bathrooms, and modernized computer rooms to meet the needs of student academics. Overall, participants believe that SFUSD schools in Districts 9, 10, and 11 need the most funding to help all students.

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