Youth Truth
THE FISH LADDER
Stuart Foundation
Youth Development Principles

Young people are connected, safe, and welcomed at school, home, and in their community.

All youth have caring relationships with adults and their peers.

Youth are given voice, with opportunities to have their ideas heard and critiqued by peers and adults.

Children and youth have meaningful opportunities for participation in their schools and communities.

Young people have high expectations for themselves, and receive the opportunities and supports to achieve high standards of learning.

Young people have experiential learning opportunities to develop and enhance their physical, cognitive, emotional, and social skills.

Children and youth are exposed to positive social norms that facilitate engagement and learning and reduce risk-taking behaviors.
CARING RELATIONSHIPS
CONNECTED, SAFE, WELCOMED
EXPERIENTIAL,
PROJECT-BASED LEARNING
PEERS

HIGH EXPECTATIONS
THE FISH LADDER
WHAT IS YOUTH TRUTH?
a national student survey that gathers rigorous, comparative, and actionable student feedback
a vehicle for education reform to be informed and shaped by those who should most benefit: the **STUDENTS** themselves
Where YD meets Education

- Students' relationships with teachers
- Rigor of classroom instruction
- School culture
- Students' future preparedness
Gather
Reflect
Understand
Positioned to Act
100,000 students  
215 unique schools  
28 districts & networks

Small High Schools
Stevenson High School
Stevenson, WA

STEM High Schools
MC/STEM High School
Cleveland, OH

Early Colleges
Sampson Early College High School
Clinton, NC

Charter Schools
High Tech High International
San Diego, CA

Large Traditional High Schools
Miami Beach Senior High School
Miami, FL

Small Schools
S. Atlanta High School of Law and Social Justice
Atlanta, GA

states with participating YouthTruth schools
Comparative Data at the School Level

"I will have more options after I graduate because of what this school has done for me."

District Y Schools

Strongly agree 5.0
Somewhat agree 4.0
Neither agree nor disagree 3.0
1=Strongly Disagree
Somewhat disagree 2.0

Grade Level

Top of range
75th percentile
50th percentile (median)
25th percentile
Bottom of range

Selected Student Comments

"I’m not sure what kinds of options I will have in the future. My counselors have helped me understand how to get to graduation, but after that it’s a big question mark."

"I hear from many students who are at college who attended this school and they feel that they weren’t prepared for it and the amount of work that was needed to be done. I am really scared that I won’t be able to handle it or know what to expect."
The survey gives students a chance to explain in specifics about events and activities that take place at our school. I realized the questions I was being asked really mattered.
I think this data will help us to better understand the schools we work with. We always want to be learning about how to best support the schools within our district.
We thought it would be another district-run survey. We have never been able to use the data we received in the past from our student surveys. I didn't realize YouthTruth would be so action oriented. This data is incredibly useful.
What We’re Learning About Preparedness

86% of students tell us that they want to go to college.

67% of students tell us that they expect to.

Just 35% of students tell us their schools have counseled them on how to apply.

Just 33% tell us their schools have counseled them on how to pay for it.
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for more information

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