

Youth Voices in Action



Youth Summit Report

Created by Janelle Astorga-Ramos
Edited by Ian Esquibel



About Youth Voices in Action - VIA

Our Mission Statement

Youth of different ages collectively coming together to speak up, be heard and make a change in our education system to fit the needs of everyone.

Our Vision

We work to create student-led trainings and campaigns that will help eliminate inequities in the education system and incorporate Student Voices in Decision Making at Albuquerque Public School (APS).

Our campaigns are made by youth for youth. Learn more at <http://viaabq.weebly.com>

Thank you to our partners:

Office of Equity and Engagement

Mission Graduate

SouthWest Organizing Project

Learning Alliance

ENLACE

La Plazita Institute

Washington Middle School



What is the Youth Summit?

On April 22nd 2017 VIA hosted the first ever student-led youth summit in APS history!

Our youth summit consisted of 5 different trainings or workshops based on the areas that our membership chose. Then, our core VIA members became experts in those subjects by teaming up with our adult allies. The adult allies acted as mentors and educated us on the material that the students wanted to facilitate. The student facilitators then came up with the agenda and program for each workshop as well as for the whole summit. The workshops we held were;

1. How to survive Adulting
Facilitated by Jonathon Alonzo and community partner Elizabeth Exil
2. Food Justice
Facilitated by Isabella Baker, Brad and community partner Daniel Nevares
3. Youth Empowerment
Facilitated by Zoe Hughes, Anthony and community partners Maria Molina and Jazmin Acosta
4. Building Relationships
Facilitated by Eloisa Juarez and community partner Ian Esquibel
5. Testing and Opting Out
Facilitated by Janelle Astorga-Ramos and mentored by Eleanor Andrews

Wall of Burning Issues

During the Summit we did an activity “The Wall of Burning Issues” where students write on a sticky note any issue they’re passionate about and stick it on a big piece of paper. Then, we read all the sticky notes and put them in categories of campaigns that we, as VIA can work on in the future.

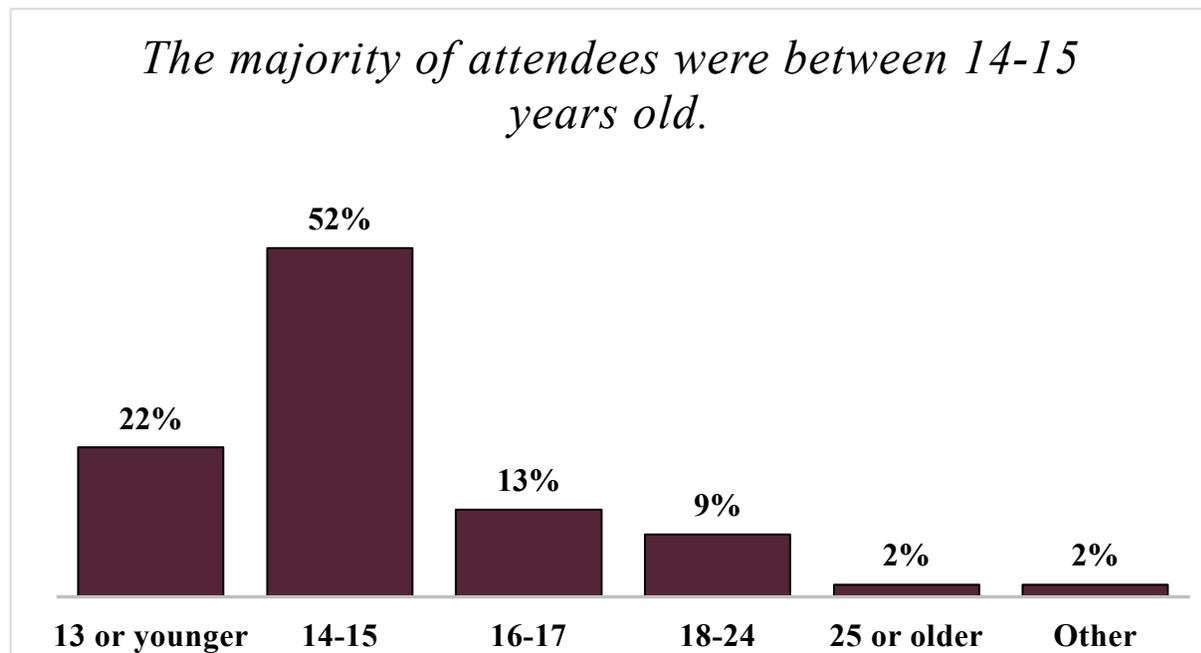
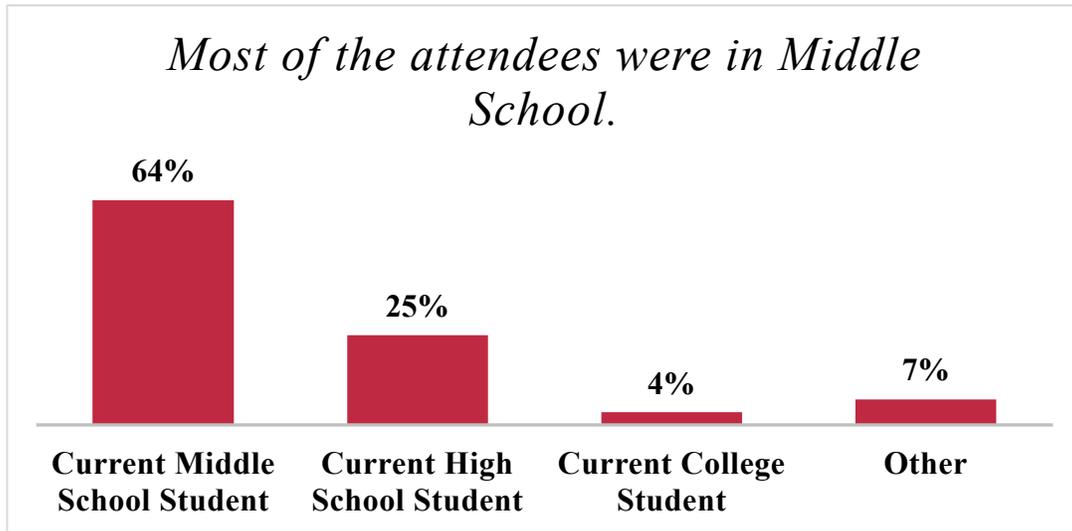
The following table are the future campaigns students want VIA to works on.

Area of Issue	Issue	Campaign
Funding	Sports Equipment and Travel	Fundraising/ Sports Awareness
	Music/Fine Arts equipment and travel Books, materials and field trips for Ethnic Studies classes	Community show/Fundraising Ethnic Studies awareness and importance throughout the community
	School Garden equipment and classes	Events and fundraising for awareness and educating community on the importance of school gardens
	Budget Cuts/How to keep away from hurting education and sports	Making a report for APS on how more effectively fund programs when dealing with budget cuts. What’s important to students?
	Renovations/ AHS and other schools don’t have cafeterias	Helping to discover more effective time to do renovations or better ways to hold classes/lunch throughout renovations

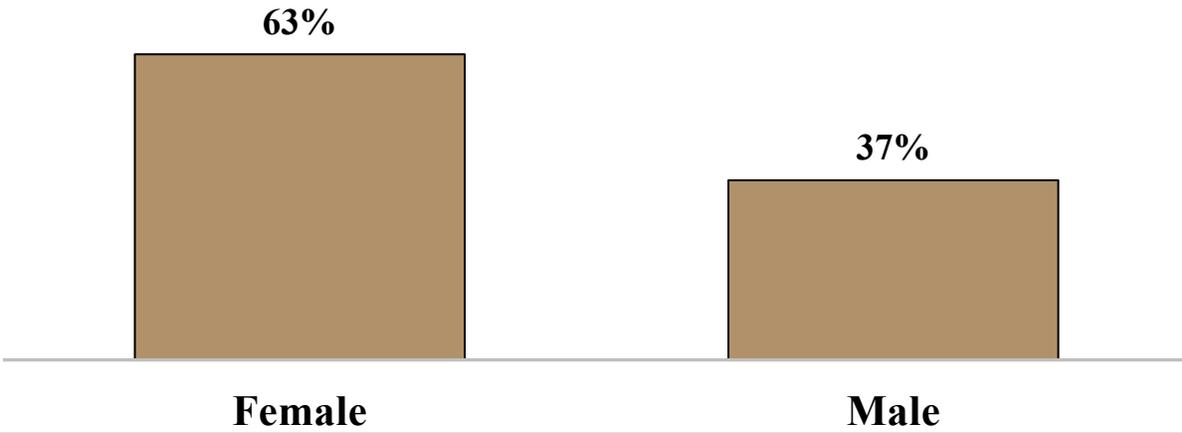
Area of Issue	Issue	Campaign
Student Rights	Suicide awareness and prevention	Workshops and discussions inside schools
	Stopping discrimination, sexism, racism, genderism etc. between students & students and students & teachers	Workshops and student forums to determine what's really going on/ More teacher trainings
	Gang violence prevention	Restorative justice measures and student forums
	LGBTQ Rights and solidarity	Workshops, awareness and clubs
	Helping others	
	Making Friends	
	Building Relationships	Workshops on communication and relationships
	Rights for undocumented Students and protecting those right	Workshops and student forums
	Ethnic Studies/learning about your culture and the cultures of others	Building awareness of classes and getting more classes involved Workshops and student forums
	Poverty, Violence and drug use	Workshops and awareness campaigns – Connect with YWU?
Sex Education and teen pregnancy	Student Workshops	
	Financial Literacy classes	
Mental Health	Access to SBHC	Connecting with YWU to help with campaigns
	Training teachers on how to react towards mental health incidents	Teacher trainings and student awareness

Area of Issue	Issue	Campaign
	Connecting Testing and Mental Health	Workshops/data collecting on how testing can disrupt mental health
Environment	Not having enough community grocery stores	Growers Market awareness and involvement
	Water Contamination inside schools	Water data and awareness
	Pollution	Student forums and awareness workshops
	Environmental Racism	Workshops and forums

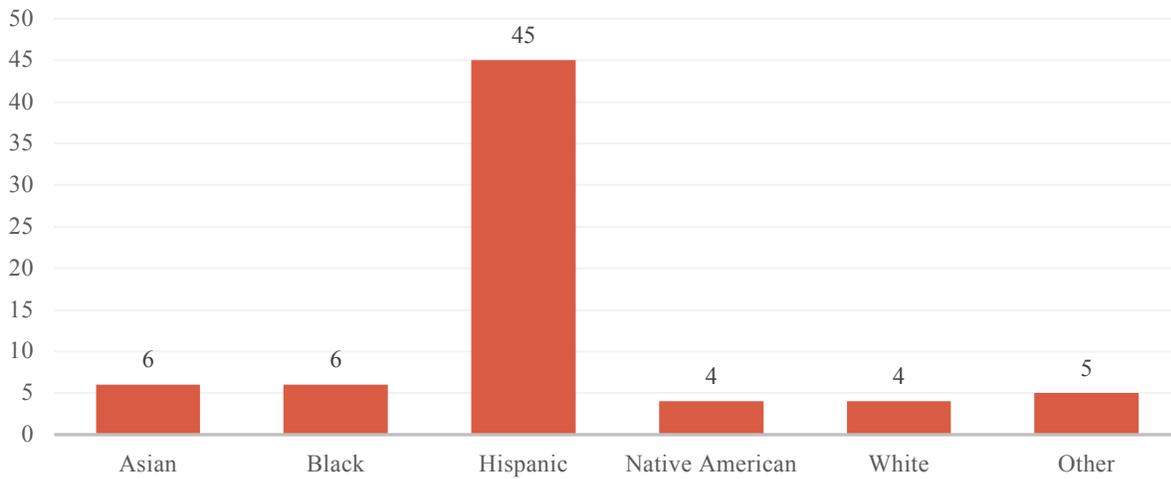
Youth Summit Evaluation Findings



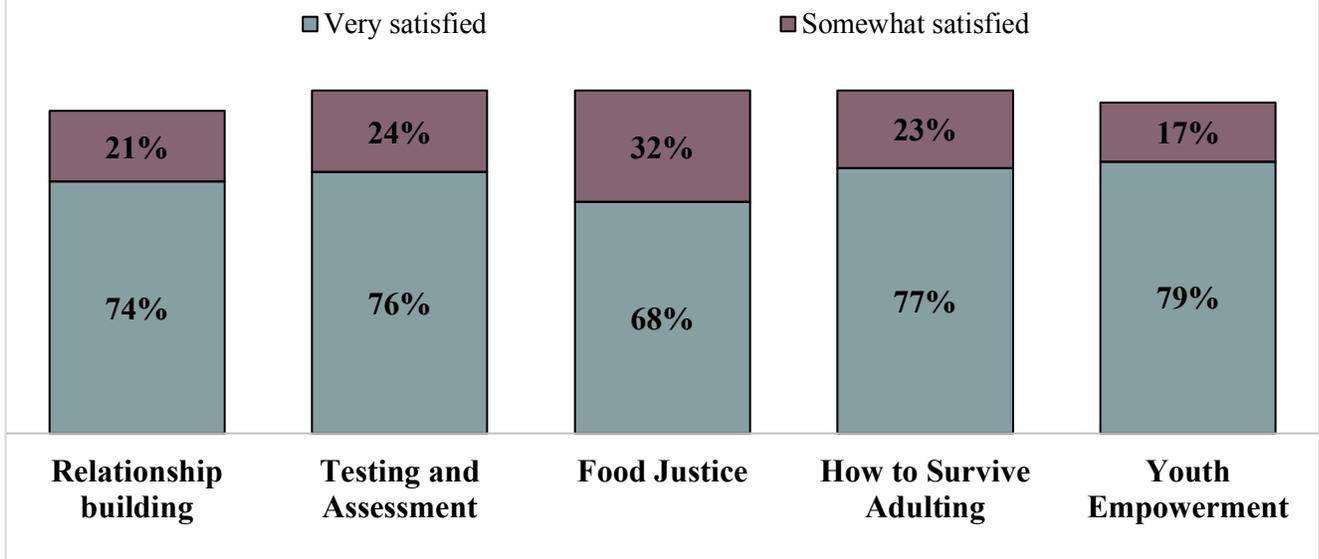
Most of the attendees were female.



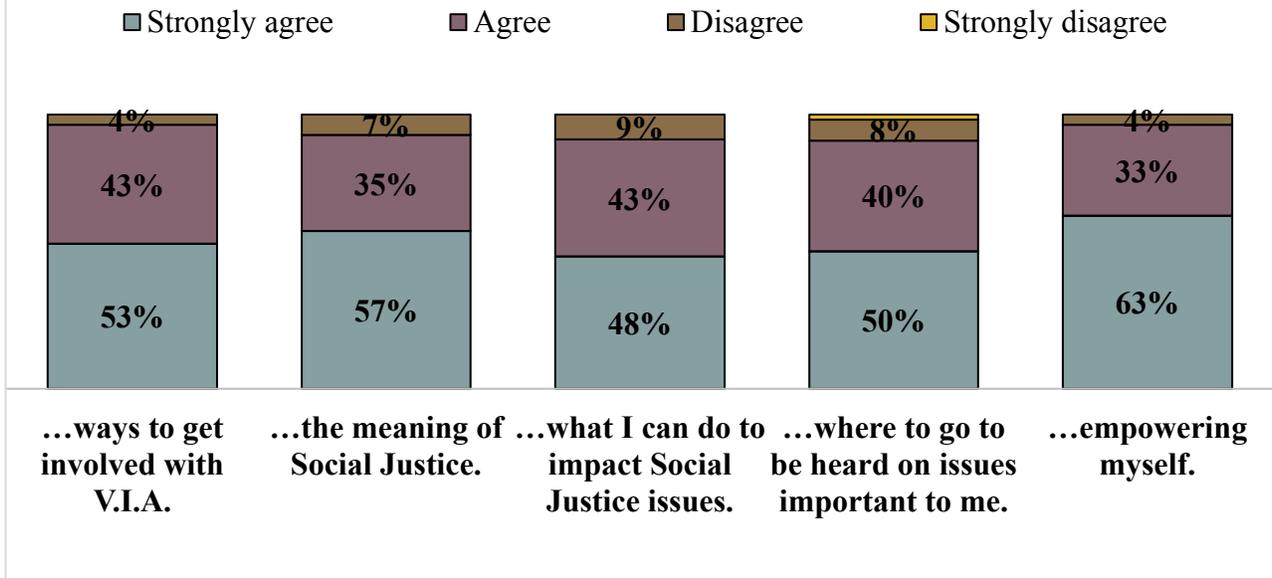
The majority of attendees were Hispanic.



MOST ATTENDEES WERE SATISFIED WITH THEIR SELECTED BREAKOUT SESSION.



AT THIS SUMMIT I LEARNED ABOUT...



With these findings, we are able to determine how to involve more students of different backgrounds and how to effectively keep students engaged not only with VIA but with school in general. We are looking forward to next year's youth summit and comparing the data in order to show our growth with diversity and student involvement.

Appendix A – VIA Summit Debrief

VIA Summit planning committee members met May 10, 2017 to reflect on what went well during the summit and what could improve for the next summit. Findings listed below.

What did you appreciate the most about the summit?

- District leadership - giving time (Supt. Involved in Zoe's session)
- Use community space and location
- Student-led
- Open windows for other youth
- Student interest, engagement and leadership
 - Participation and resource follow up
- WMS staff – welcoming & supportive
- Positive energy and punctual time management
- Well organized
- Lots of learning
- Calm and peach at event; flow
- Respectful youth impressed by youth presenters
- Engaged APS Board members
- Teachers re-engaging former students
- Youth walked away with skills and tools

What did we do REALLY well that we want to repeat next year?

- Organization
- Time management - food breaks
- Food
- Privilege walk
- Wall of burning issues
- Youth speakers
- Welcoming space
- Youth-led and youth-focused
- Set up day before
- Engage board members and Superintendent

What are a few things we want to IMPROVE for next year?

- Promoting VIA better (t-shirts, posters, etc.)
- Make shirt more general
- People stay committed
- Outreach
- Extra hands-on activities
- Conversations in safe spaces
- Group norms/community agreements
- Classroom management training for speakers
- Trial runs of presentations/more practicing
- More opportunities for youth to interact
- More presentations
- Connect workshops to each other and to the theme

Next Steps

The youth summit was a major success and a lot of opportunities came out of it! One thing that VIA would love to do is give a huge thank you to Washington Middle School for letting us use their space, being so welcoming and helpful and actively participating in the youth summit. In order to thank WMS, VIA will be volunteering on Saturday May 20th 2017 at the Raiders Vegucation Garden Community Work Day where we will be helping clean the school campus and planting!

Then, VIA is planning a summer Barbeque to reconnect students and plan for the fall semester (Date TBD). Starting in August 2017, VIA will be hosting an after school program for Manzano High School and Washington Middle School! The afterschool program will meet once a week and will focus on different areas such as homework help, community campaigns, and workshops based on the needs and wants of the students involved. This is an amazing opportunity for students everywhere to develop their leadership skills, public speaking and other skills.

Also, VIA will start the planning for the Youth Summit 2018 in fall semester of 2017. We will be adding in all the feedback from the first youth summit to make the second one an even bigger success, we will also be expanding our school outreach to get a larger crowd and welcoming back our community partners to again help with mentoring our youth facilitators.

RECAP:

- Saturday May 20th 2017 - Raiders Vegucation Community Work Day @WMS
- Summer Barbeque (Date TBD)
- 2017-2018 school year, VIA will be hosting an after school program for Manzano High School and Washington Middle School
- Youth Summit 2018 planning meeting will start fall semester 2017

Thank you to the following schools that were in attendance:

AIMES at UNM
Albuquerque High School
Atrisco Heritage Academy
New Futures High School
South Valley Academy
University of NM
Washington Middle School

**Thank you to the following APS Board Members and Superintendent that
were in attendance:**

Candelaria 'Candy' Patterson
Barbara Peterson
Raquel Reedy

Special Thanks to:

Angela Rodriguez – WMS Principal
Bernadette Trujillo-Ellis– WMS Teacher