Diversifying Student Recruitment – Reflective Guide

Questions for YWC Facilitators

The following questions aim to guide facilitators in critically examining and improving their selection processes to foster inclusivity and equal opportunity in youth development programs.

1. Reflection on Selection Criteria:

- What are the current criteria used to select students for leadership or developmental programs?
- How might these criteria inadvertently favor certain students over others?

2. Exploration of Bias:

- In what ways could subconscious biases influence the selection of students for these programs?
- Can you identify any patterns or trends in the types of students who are typically selected or overlooked?

3. Strategies for Inclusive Recruitment:

- What strategies could be implemented to ensure a more inclusive selection process that values diverse forms of leadership and contributions?
- How can you actively engage teachers and other staff in recognizing and nominating students who may not fit the traditional leadership mold?

4. Feedback Mechanisms:

- How can feedback from students and teachers be utilized to improve the selection process?
- What measures can be put in place to continuously assess and refine these processes to ensure fairness and inclusivity?

5. Program Design Adjustments:

- Are there elements of the program that could be adapted to be more appealing or relevant to a broader range of students?
- How can the program be communicated to appeal to all students, not just those who already show leadership skills?





6. Monitoring and Evaluation:

- What methods can be used to monitor the effectiveness of changes made to the selection process?
- How will you measure the impact of a more diverse group of students participating in these programs on the overall educational outcomes?

References

Government of British Columbia (2016). Youth Engagement Resource Tool Kit Retrieved from https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/family-social-supports/data-monitoring-quality-assurance/information-for-service-providers/youth-engagement-toolkit

Ramey, H. L., Lawford, H. L., Rose-Krasnor, L., Freeman, J., & Lanctot, J. (2018). Engaging diverse Canadian youth in youth development programs: Program quality and community engagement. *Children and Youth Services Review*, 94, 20–26. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.childyouth.2018.09.023

School Mental Health Ontario. (2024). Student Engagement Toolkit. Retrieved from https://smho-smso.ca/online-resources/student-engagement-toolkit/ National Network for Youth (2023). Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in Youth Engagement. Retrieved from https://nn4youth.org/diversity-equity-and-inclusion-in-youth-engagement/

Ontario Centre of Excellence for Child and Youth Mental Health. (2021). Quality standard for youth engagement. Ottawa, ON. Retrieved from www.cymh.ca/ye_standard

Law, D., Valli, M., & Zhang, C. (2017). Engaging millennials: Promoting community health through dynamic student-led initiatives. In Youth engagement in health promotion (Vol. 1, No. 3)



