



## Fostering Civic Engagement: Engaging Teens in Advocacy

Liliana Murphy  
Florida After School, Inc.

### PRIME TIME PALM BEACH COUNTY AFTERSCHOOL SYMPOSIUM 2025

Empowering Young Minds, Engaging Communities, Creating Lasting Impact

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# Agenda

## Youth Voice

Explore strategies to activate youth voice in programs.

## Civic Engagement

Discuss the different types of advocacy and the platforms that youth can engage with.

## Family Engagement

Strategies for to engage families in youth programming.



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# Introductions



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# Youth Voice

- Youth voice involves the inclusion of young people's ideas, perspectives, and leadership.
- Youth voice is about actively involving youth in decision making, planning, and leadership roles to ensure that they feel heard, respected, and empowered.



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# Key Aspects of Youth Voice

1. Decision-Making Power
2. Feedback and Reflection
3. Leadership Opportunities
4. Respect for Identity and Experience
5. Collaborative Planning and Evaluation





# Why is Youth Voice Important?

- Boosts engagement and motivation—youth are more likely to participate when they feel ownership.
- Builds leadership and communication skills.
- Creates more relevant and responsive programming.
- Fosters respect and community within the program.





# Why is Youth Voice Important?

1. Youth-led clubs or interest groups
2. Youth-led program planning committee
3. Youth Advisory Councils
4. Youth-led program evaluation



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# Civic Engagement

1. Civic engagement is the act of individuals participating in activities that address issues of public concern and help improve their communities.



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# Common Aspects of Civic Engagement

1. Community Involvement
2. Governmental Participation
3. Advocacy and Social Action
4. Civic Education



# Core Strategies for Youth Civic Engagement

1. Community Projects & Service Learning
2. Youth-led Advocacy
3. Civic Education with a Youth Voice Twist
4. Partnerships with Local Organization
5. Digital Civic Engagement







# Teen Day 2025



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# Civic Engagement: Teen Day

- Educate teens on the legislative process
- Describe
- Connect them with key figures in the process, including local representatives, mayors, congressman, commissioners, etc.
- Provided a tour (if possible)



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# Family Engagement

Family engagement in afterschool programs means actively involving families as partners in supporting their children's learning, development, and success beyond the school day. It's not just about attendance at events—it's about building meaningful, two-way relationships with families.



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# What Family Engagement Looks Like

1. Open Communication
2. Welcoming Environment
3. Family Participation in Activities
4. Shared Decision Making
5. Support Beyond Academics



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# How to Support Families with Civic Engagement

1. Educate families about the civic process
2. Connect families to existing opportunities
3. Create opportunities for family-led projects
4. Encourage intergeneration engagement
5. Make the program a civic hub
6. Listen to Family voice



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Liliana Murphy  
Executive Director  
Florida After School, Inc.



EMAIL  
[lmurphy@flafterschool.com](mailto:lmurphy@flafterschool.com)



PHONE NUMBER  
850-629-9557

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