Developing student agency in South Australia - SA

Margot Foster PSM, Director Professional Practice, SA Department for Education

State STEM Learning Strategy from 2017 - Annual SA Aboriginal Students' STEM Congress
1000+ participants - Aboriginal students, elders, community, educators and workers
Elyssia was one of South Australia’s first student learning ambassadors - her focus was feedback in learning and the ‘learning pit.’

**TfEL* Pilot Project 2014 - 2016**
South Australia’s State Schools’ Pedagogy Policy TfEL
Learning for effective teaching

Create safe conditions for rigorous learning

Personalise and connect learning

Develop expert learners

Teaching for effective learning

Researching the relationship between teacher pedagogy, student engagement and student achievement.*

https://acleadersresource.sa.edu.au/resources/teaching-for-effective-learning-resources/
What are our students saying about their learning?

We need more

• challenge - we’re bored
• time to collaborate and talk with our peers
• time to ask questions and think

20,000+ students
Where did this way of experiencing learning come from - what was the prevailing paradigm of teaching and learning?
A mutually reinforcing relationship

Teacher
‘relationship rescue’
unconscious low expectations of learners

Student
fixed mindset
unconscious low self-efficacy, low resilience

To improve learning engagement and outcomes, how could we disrupt this pattern?
These school principal leaders saw their role as deliberate disruptors, to disrupt current assumptions and expectations about teaching, learning and learners.
The non-negotiable of the TfEL PILOT

coop-design the change with students
‘work shoulder to shoulder’
Student Voice Audits

The UK Harris Federation inspired this work.

**students as:**

- evaluators
- learning designers
- decision makers
- teachers
- researchers
- advocates for 21C learning

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Examples from the field

Developing understanding about learning at Renmark PS - the power of ‘yet’

Student Learning Rounds across the Marion Coast network of 10 Schools - Preschool to Year 12 - we are all a learning community
Does everyone know about stretch thinking?
students understanding learning

the power of ‘yet’
The question is whether our profession is able to take hold of this opportunity to reassert a role as great learning designers and facilitators, or whether schools will be sending home worksheets and lists of things to do.
I am inspired by our teachers. They are hopeful.

Abe Moore @Arbay38 · Apr 7
And just like that, our little school committed to being a gradeless, formative FB rich, collaborative & agile school focused on the health, safety & wellbeing of our families above all, particularly those most at risk.

When this is all over, I hope we never go back to “normal”

Abe Moore @Arbay38 · Apr 7
Sorry to hear that. I saw more willingness to embrace change and challenge inequitable pedagogy today than I’ve seen in eight years at my school. Glacial change melted away because the goalposts got moved.

“Don’t waste a crisis”