

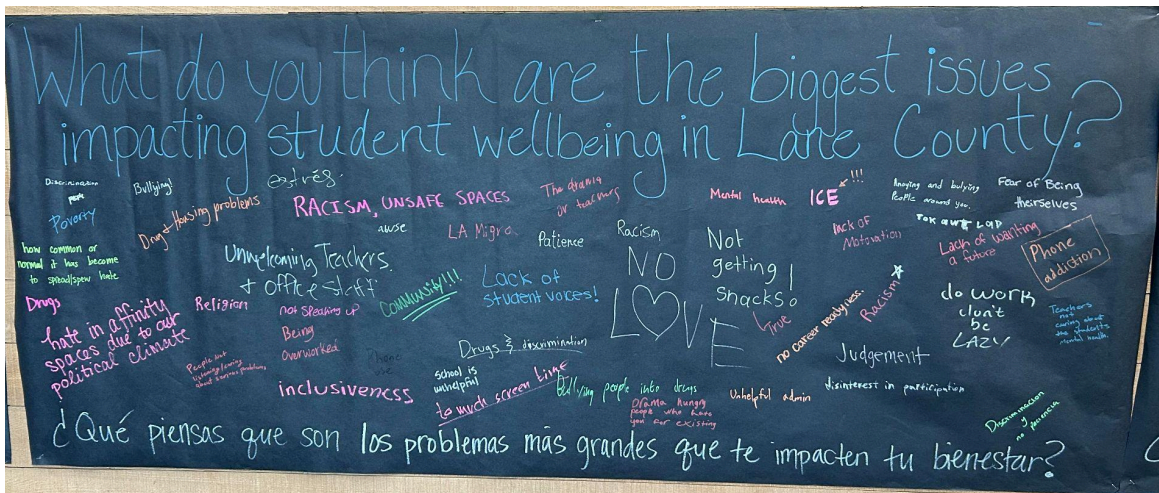
Student Voice Summit 2025: Insights from Student Posters

Introduction:

The 2025 Student Voice Summit brought together over 250 students from across Lane County for a day of connection, creativity, and youth-led leadership. Centered on the theme *"We Will Save Us,"* the summit featured dozens of student-led and student-requested workshops, performances, and conversations focused on equity, identity, mental health, school climate, and collective action. Students shared powerful insights about the barriers they face, the changes they want to see, and the support they need from adults and systems.

At the Student Voice Summit, students shared reflections and insights on posters placed throughout the event. These posters captured their lived experiences, challenges, and priorities for creating more supportive, inclusive schools.

Poster 1: *What do you think are the biggest issues impacting student wellbeing in Lane County?*

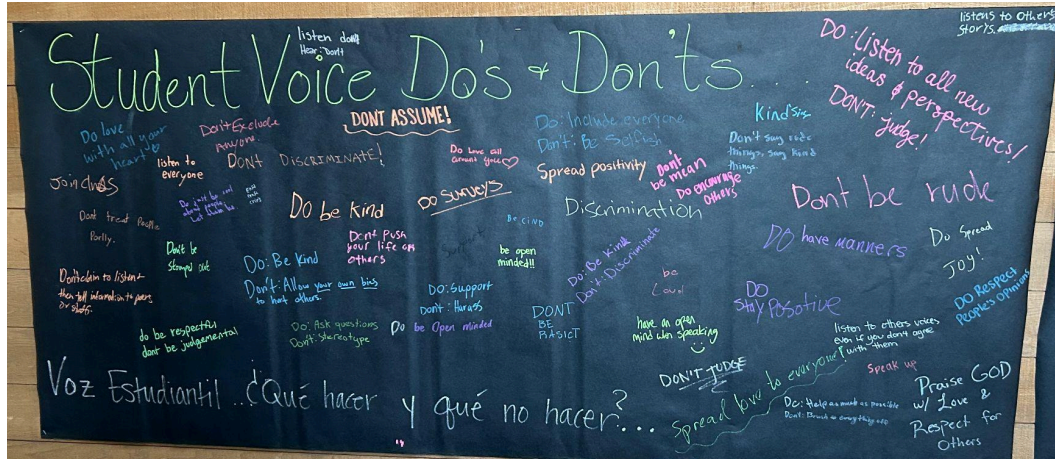


Student Responses Included:

- Stress, mental health struggles, and low motivation
- Racism, unsafe spaces, and judgment
- Bullying and discrimination
- Lack of student voice or being unheard
- Unwelcoming teachers or staff
- Drugs, poverty, and housing insecurity
- Isolation, lack of inclusiveness, and toxic peer dynamics

Student Quote: *"Not being heard gets in the way of everything."*

Poster 2: *Student Voice Do's & Don'ts*



Student Responses Included:

Do's

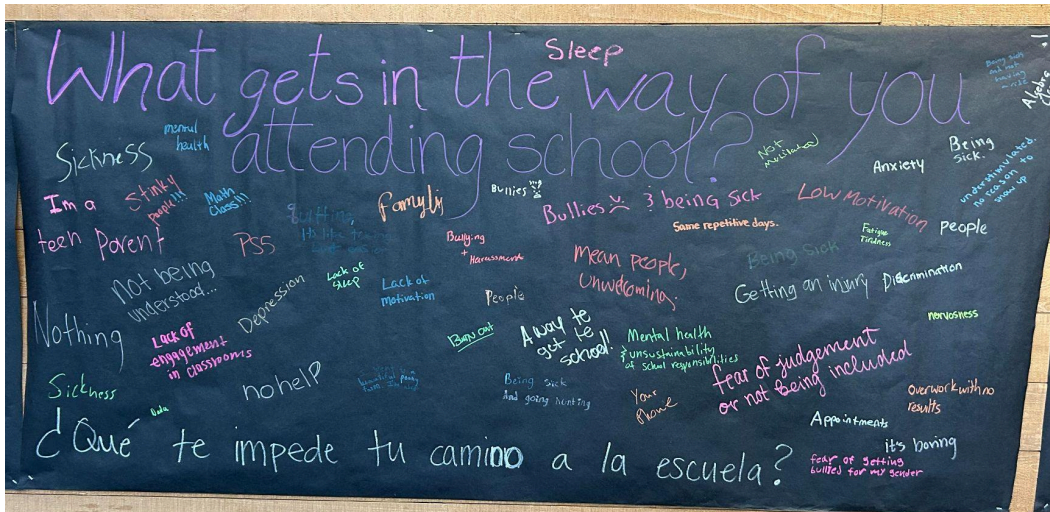
- Be kind, respectful, and inclusive
- Listen to everyone and be open to new perspectives
- Support others, spread joy, and stay positive
- Show up, participate, and value all voices

Don'ts

- Judge, stereotype, or discriminate
- Exclude or control others' stories
- Be rude or negative
- Talk over or silence others

Student Quote: “Do listen to all new ideas and perspectives. Don’t judge!”

Poster 3: *What gets in the way of you attending school?*

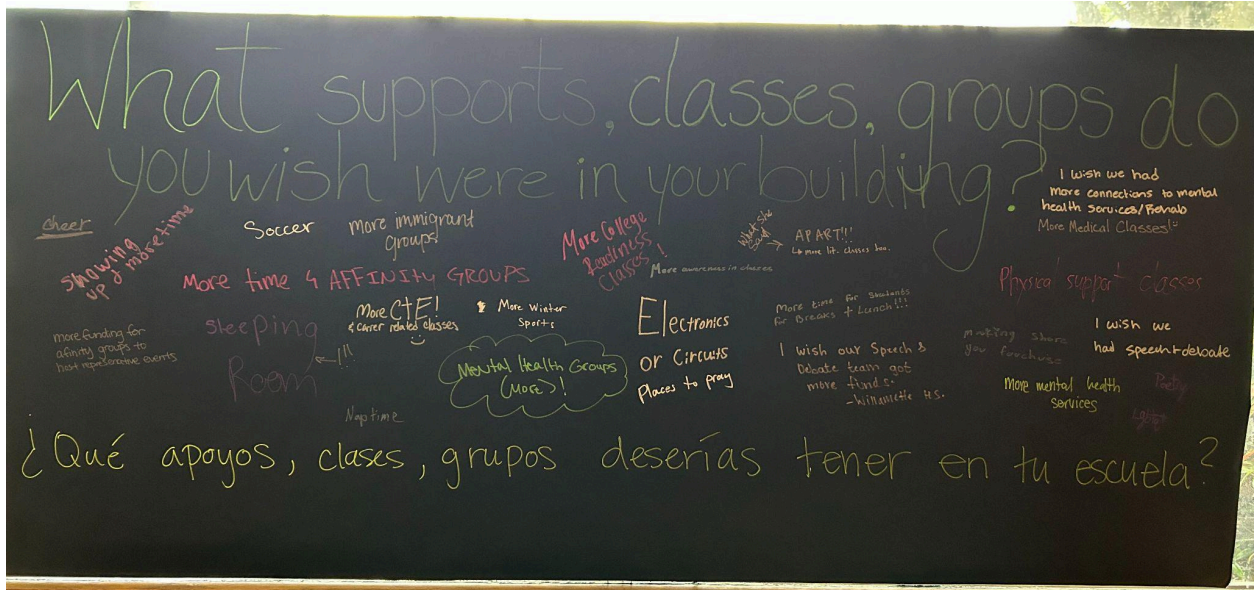


Student Responses Included:

- **Personal challenges:** sickness, lack of sleep, depression, anxiety, mental health struggles, low motivation, being a teen parent, body image
- **Social/Relational:** family stress, toxic friendships, feeling misunderstood
- **School environment:** bullying, harassment, mean/unwelcoming people, fear of judgment, discrimination, lack of help from adults
- **Other barriers:** boredom, repetitive days, overwork, transportation, appointments, “no help”

Student Quote: *“Fear of judgement or not being included keeps me away.”*

Poster 4: *What supports, classes, groups do you wish were in your building?*



- **Affinity & Identity Spaces:** more time for affinity groups, more immigrant groups, more funding for affinity events
- **Mental Health & Wellness:** more mental health services, student-led mental health groups, sleeping/nap room, regulation spaces
- **Academics & Career:** more career-related classes (CTE), medical classes, electives, tutoring, speech & debate
- **Community & Belonging:** arts programs, sports (soccer, cheer, winter sports), poetry and creative outlets, spaces to pray
- **Flexibility & Support:** more time for breaks, more encouragement from teachers

Student Quote: “I wish we had more connections to mental health services.”

Themes Across Posters

Across all four posters, student insights converge around a few key themes:

- **Mental Health & Wellbeing:** Stress, anxiety, and lack of support weigh heavily, while students want more accessible and proactive mental health supports in schools.
- **Safety & Belonging:** Racism, discrimination, bullying, and judgment create unsafe conditions; students want schools where they feel affirmed and included.
- **Voice & Agency:** Students want their perspectives respected — from shaping classes and supports to creating spaces of connection.
- **Relationships:** Supportive friendships and caring adults are central to showing up and thriving at school.
- **Engagement & Opportunity:** Students want learning that is creative, relevant, and connected to both identity and future goals.

Guiding Questions: Toward Student-Led Action

The posters students created at the Summit reflect both the challenges they face and the solutions they imagine. The questions below are offered as starting points for schools and districts to reflect on what students shared and to move toward concrete, student-led action.

Mental Health & Student Wellbeing

- How are we supporting student mental health proactively, not just in crisis?
- Where can we create dedicated spaces for rest, regulation, and wellness?

Belonging, Safety & Inclusive Culture

- What makes students feel unsafe or excluded in our schools — and how do we know?
- How are affinity and identity spaces being supported and resourced?

Student Voice & Power

- Where are students invited to lead in shaping supports, programs, or school climate?
- Do students feel that when they speak up, adults listen and respond?

Adult Practices & School Climate

- How do adults model respect, kindness, and listening in daily interactions?
- What accountability exists for ensuring staff create affirming spaces?

Moving from Listening to Action

- After hearing from students, what commitments are we ready to make?
- How will we return to this feedback and check with students on progress?

Closing

Students have been clear: they face real barriers to wellbeing and belonging, but they also bring creativity, wisdom, and solutions to help schools navigate and remove these barriers. The challenge for adults is not to come up with answers *for* students, but to walk alongside them — to listen, respond, and commit to building towards change together.

As one student wrote on the posters:

 *"We need more love in our schools."*

Resources & Supports for Next Steps

- Quick Summary of Student Priorities: <https://shorturl.at/Wov6o>
- Lane ESD Student Voice Website: <https://lesd.link/studentvoice>
- Between Classrooms - Student Voice Podcast: www.youtube.com/@BetweenClassrooms