

Together For Students Year 3 Learning Proposal

The Together For Students (TFS) Initiative between Coalition for Community Schools, Communities In Schools and StriveTogether is based on coming together to support students and communities to ensure that they have resources and opportunities to succeed and thrive, shifting systems to serve people. The work of these three national partners supports critical local efforts in Lehigh Valley, Penn., Chicago, Ill., Dayton, Ohio and Memphis, Tenn.

In the past year of the TFS project, briefs and technical reports were published to capture insights from the collaboration and progress at the local level. For year 3 of capturing the learning, StriveTogether as the learning lead is proposing a partnership to test new approaches with local communities and uplift youth voice through local youth-led engagement projects. This follows the vision that students are at the center of everything we do and making resources accessible to young people to make their impact in their communities.

The **result** of this project would be to empower youth voice to make a change or advocate for their community. Some examples could include: a video project filmed and edited by youth that captures stories of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, youth-led storytelling that captures resilience and skills, shifting from the narrative of learning loss, or youth discussing and uplifting teacher practices that support their learning.

For this collaboration, local sites will be given funding to support youth engagement efforts in their communities. By shifting funding into the authority of local communities, this will allow local communities to think strategically about youth voice and give resources into the hands of young people to make an impact.

This project would give local sites flexibility with additional funding while leaning into the TFS value of students at the center. Funds will be provided by StriveTogether for the period of **July 2021-April 15, 2022**. Funds should be used to directly give youth in the community the resources to make an impact. As part of the learning, sites would work closely with a StriveTogether staff/consultant to capture learning from the local work throughout the year.

Please include your responses to the following questions and send your application to Akshayaa Venkatakrishnan (venkatakrishnana@strivetgether.org) by July 8, 2021. Once approved, StriveTogether will share a funding agreement with the site before the release of the funds.

Community name:

- 1) What is an overview of your proposed youth project, and what outcomes or impact could it have in the community?
- 2) Describe what actions you will take to carry out this project.
- 3) How will youth, especially Black, Indigenous, Latinx and Asian and those experiencing poverty, be engaged in this effort?
- 3) What challenges do you anticipate in implementing this project?
- 4) What resources do you anticipate needing to achieve these outcomes? (please provide a high-level budget)
- 5) How does this project align to the results of empowering youth voice to make a change or advocate for their community?