



Review of Youth Council
and Recommendations for
Moving Forward



Introduction of Youth Council members

2025-2026 YC member list

Alex Zimring-Renaissance School

David Darring-Charlottesville High School

Dylan Grist- Charlottesville High School


Emma Bennett-McConnell-Charlottesville High School

Eshan Panicker-Charlottesville High School

Lila Castleman-Charlottesville High School

Lucia Clarens-Charlottesville High School

Olivia -Charlottesville High School



The power
of community,
connection and
shared knowledge

Moving Youth Council Forward

- Increasing membership and sustainability
- Improving the experience through increasing knowledge and information
- Increasing community partnerships & school partnerships
- Community building and engaging outside of the four walls


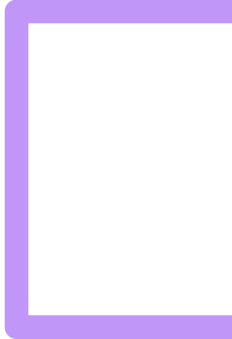


Youth Council Enrollment and Sustainability Recommendations

- Include the adults facilitating Youth Council to assist with selection of new members
- Select applicants based on percentage of the pool applying vs current guidelines
- Create a renewal application and process for current YC members to allow youth who aren't truly interested to roll off and open space for new members
 - Attendance, motivation & meeting engagement
- Create a stipend program as an incentive: rewards youth for their work and increases diversity in members
 - teens who work should not feel like they can not engage: choose between work and participating
- Create partnership with Middle and High school history departments, AVID, public speaking coursework, etc.
 - Promote & engage schools to partner with YC/city council


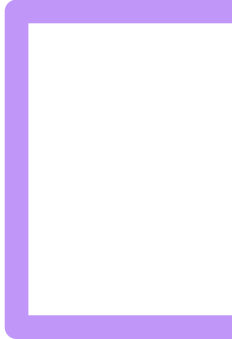


Diving in Deeper with Youth Informative Sessions

- Workshop on know your rights for teens (focused on Middle & High school students)
 - How to advocate as a youth in Richmond and local government
 - How to use voice at local platforms (city council & school board meetings etc.)
 - Learn about Voter registration and voting rights
 - Age of voting & how to register (education within the school & community-teens didn't know about special elections)
 - Life skills (navigating being 18 & transitioning out of high school: what happens after high school, trades, college, work, opportunities)
 - Increase frequency of meetings (move from once a month to twice a month)
 - One meeting a month at CHS to decrease accessibility barrier,
 - make open to student body as listening sessions for students to voice concerns/feedback
 - support increasing diversity and equity in voices at the table
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Diving in Deeper with Youth Informative Sessions (continued)

- Center student voices without penalty
 - Focus on student lead impact
 - Open mic assembly to hear student feedback on changes within the school & local government.
 - Partnership with educators (ESL, government, history, AVID, Credit recovery)
 - School announcements and advertisements
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Youth Council In The Community

Taking Youth Council into the Community

Allow Youth Council to become more visible and inform the community of its purpose.

Increase youth engagement

- Table at Friday's After Five
- Table on Downtown Mall during special events
- Provide Youth Council with identifiable swag

Allow Youth Council have a presence within the schools.

- School feedback walks
- Table at school games
- Table during school lunches
- Have an after school meeting within school commons once a month (4:15p meeting)

Current events that have impacted Youth Council members and peers

- Presence of ICE both nationally and locally
- Recent special election in Virginia
- Transitioning into adulthood in the current national climate



Questions & Answer

Thank you

**Youth Council
2025-2026**

