



Student Leadership Conferences

Alma Partners

What is a Student Leadership Conference (SLC)?

The first Student Diversity Leadership Conference took place in 1993 at the National Association of Independent Schools People of Color Conference (NAIS POCC). Co-initiated by Randolph Carter, an Alma Partners co-founder and founder of [East Ed](#), the goals of the conference were to offer Students of Color a place to see themselves reflected, articulate their concerns, and identify opportunities to increase equity within their schools, and for White students to learn more about themselves and develop tools for engaging in anti-racism and anti-bias work.

Since 1993, Randolph and East Ed have facilitated Student Diversity Leadership Conferences at hundreds of schools, helping approximately 1,000 students a year (along with faculty participants) develop skills to tackle difficult conversations with honesty and empathy, develop leadership capacity, and make positive change in their school communities.

In collaboration with Randolph, Alma Partners is thrilled to be launching our own Student Leadership Conference (SLC) program in the 2024-25 school year.

What are the goals and outcomes?

Goals

- Create a space where student leaders can dialogue honestly across differences and adult supporters can model engaged, responsive leadership
- Build students' confidence, sense of belonging, facilitation skills, and leadership capacity
- Develop cross-school networks that empower youth and center their voices

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Outcomes

- Students:
 - Acquire skills and abilities to recognize and interrupt bias when they see it, and to be more aware of their own identities as well as the identities of others, leading to increased empathy and understanding
 - Develop language and tools to talk about difficult topics
 - Create action plans to continue the conversation after the conference and become more effective in advocating for themselves and each other in their schools

- Adults:
 - Reflect on their own identities and the culture of their schools to become more effective educators and help build more authentically inclusive schools
 - Expand their picture of students' needs and the issues that matter to students
 - Help students stay accountable to their action plans
 - Connect with other adults supporting diverse student leaders at local schools

Who can attend?

Students in grades 6-12 in separate conferences, with faculty chaperones who participate in adult sessions facilitated by conference staff:

Middle School (6th-8th grades) conference

High School (9th-12th grades) conference

In some cases, High School students are trained to assist in the development and delivery of the High School and Middle School conferences, acting as facilitators and presenters.

Randolph has also designed and facilitated Lower School (4th-5th grades) conferences.

What is the timeline and process?

We begin working with the host school approximately 6-9 months before the conference. In collaboration with teacher mentors/faculty advisors, we work with a

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student group to decide the conference theme, title, and program. We also support the host school to think about how to promote the conference and bring in other schools as sponsors and/or participants. The host school then identifies sponsor schools and arranges all logistics, including venue and meals. Conferences typically last one day in the first year; when schools make a multi-year commitment, participants become more familiar with all of the conference requirements and an additional day can be added.

What is the cost and how are funds raised?

- Approximately \$15,000-25,000 (*varies by number of attendees and amount of planning support available from the school*)
 - Schools typically involve several other schools as sponsors, to share costs (Ex: 3-5 schools at \$5,000 each or 2 schools at \$10,000 each)
 - Sponsor schools cover the cost
 - Area schools who wish to participate but not sponsor can send students and chaperones for a per-person fee (usually \$100-150 per participant, varies by number of attendees); this income can be used to offset any gaps in funding or to support ongoing inclusivity and belonging initiatives in the host school

Costs include:

- Content creation, conference planning guidance and oversight, and on-site conference facilitation (or support for student facilitation) by 2-4 Alma Partners consultants, including at least one Alma Partners student facilitator
- Travel for Alma Partners facilitators
(Approximately \$1000-1500 per person, depending on conference location. Includes flight, lodging, ground transportation, and meals.)
- Venue cost, if any
- Lunch and snacks for participants during the conference
- Materials (promotional pieces including fliers and facilitator booklet, notebooks and pens for each student)
 - Student giveaways like t-shirts or wristbands are sometimes produced for the conference and are paid for separately by the sponsor schools

[Contact us](#) to start planning your school's SLC or [book a call here!](#)