

Extra-curricular activities

AREAS FOR DEVELOPMENT	RECOMMENDATIONS
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Involving more school students in extra-curricular projects and activities, including ones who cannot stay after school	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Encourage students to invite the participation of their peers, e.g., surveying opinion, involve students in the design of curriculum projects with student- or community-focused themes
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Liaising with relevant community, public sector and civil society organisations on projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Help student self-government bodies make links with relevant community, public sector and civil society organisations
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Helping students to feel they are making a difference	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Link activities to relevant influencers in and beyond school, e.g., student self-government, teachers councils, school management, local government, NGOs, social media influencers, etc.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Ensuring all student self-government bodies have the support of sympathetic adults	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Explore ways of providing student representatives with regular access to expert advice and technical support
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Making more use of digital forms of participation in extra-curricular activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Encourage students to explore ways in which digital technology can be used to enhance their participation in extra-curricular activities

Professional development

AREAS FOR DEVELOPMENT	RECOMMENDATIONS
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Encouraging school principals to implement a whole-school approach to student participation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Design and implement training for principals on implementing a whole-school approach to student participation
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Providing more opportunities for students to get involved in the education process	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Collect practical strategies for involving students in the education process
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Helping teachers translate National Curriculum requirements relevant to student participation into classroom practice	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Design and disseminate student participation classroom strategies to help teachers implement National Curriculum requirements
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Using digital media to enhance student participation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Design and implement training for teachers on the use of digital media to enhance student participation in school life

The report “Engaging School Children in Decision Making Processes in Georgia” is a baseline assessment of the current state of democratic governance of schools and democratic citizenship education at school level in Georgia, in relation to student participation in decision making processes.

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ENGAGING SCHOOL CHILDREN IN DECISION MAKING PROCESSES IN GEORGIA

Baseline assessment report

Summary of Areas for Development and Recommendations



School climate



AREAS FOR DEVELOPMENT	RECOMMENDATIONS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensuring students feel safe at school, free from bullying or other forms of emotional or physical violence 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Involve students in personal safety and anti-bullying initiatives, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developing a school anti-bullying policy Establishing a student self-government safety committee Launching a school campaign on cyberbullying Encouraging peer mediation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encouraging parents to become more engaged in school life, including in school administration, curricular and extra-curricular activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Encourage the establishment of Parents' Associations, e.g., to provide feedback to the School Board, fund-raise, organise activities and trips ✓ Compile a list of parents who are able to contribute their expert knowledge to the teaching of different school subjects
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Making support for student involvement in school life a more significant element in school policy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Include positive support for student participation in the Standards for Public School Principals.

School board



AREAS FOR DEVELOPMENT	RECOMMENDATIONS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Raising the profile of student issues in school board meetings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Require school principals to report on the state of student participation as a regular agenda item in school board meetings.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Raising the profile of the student representative on the school board 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Strengthen the role of the student representative on the school board
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Making student representatives more accountable to those who elect them 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Arrange for student representatives to consult the student body before school board meetings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increasing student representation on the school board 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Increase the number of student representatives on the school board

Curriculum



AREAS FOR DEVELOPMENT	RECOMMENDATIONS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Giving students more of a say in the planning and design of their school curricula 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Equip teachers and school leaders with practical strategies for involving young people in the planning and design of their school curricula
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishing more explicitly the links between the National Curriculum subjects and the Reference Framework of Competences for Democratic Culture 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Provide teachers with examples of subject-specific links to competences for democratic culture and practical strategies for realising these in practice in the classroom, e.g., a user-friendly collection of short case studies.

Student self-government



AREAS FOR DEVELOPMENT	RECOMMENDATIONS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Motivating more young people to participate in student self-government 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Involve student representatives in informing their peers about student self-government, and their right to participate in school governance, e.g., poster campaign, student brochure, video.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Making student self-government bodies more accountable 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Encourage regular communication between student representatives and the students who elected them
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Liaising with relevant community, public sector and civil society organisations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Help student self-government bodies make links with relevant community, public sector and civil society organisations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Raising the profile of student self-government and giving it more credibility, in and beyond school 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Formalise student self-government working methods and procedures, e.g., a written constitution with terms of reference, regular meeting pattern
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensuring students in small rural schools can access the same benefits of self-government as larger urban ones 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Devising and disseminating forms of student self-government appropriate for small rural schools, e.g., circle-time.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exploring new forms of online student self-government, both within and between schools 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Establish a platform or app for student self-governments for students to participate in decision-making and self-government activities online.

Leadership



AREAS FOR DEVELOPMENT	RECOMMENDATIONS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encouraging school principals to promote more opportunities for student participation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Require school principals to report on opportunities for student participation as part of annual school self-evaluation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promoting distributive forms of school leadership 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Provide school principals with information on the principles of shared leadership and practical strategies for implementing them
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Motivating school principals to create more active school boards and student self-governments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Create new mechanisms for regular communication between school leaders, school boards and student self-governments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encouraging school principals to adopt a more democratic approach to school governance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Make support for a democratic approach to school governance a legal obligation for all principals of public schools, e.g., insert a requirement in Article 42 of the Functions of a school principal in the Law of Georgia on General Education

Teaching & Learning



AREAS FOR DEVELOPMENT	RECOMMENDATIONS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Giving teachers the confidence to allow students more of a say in their own learning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Provide teachers with a graded, step-by-step guide to practical strategies for enhancing student participation in learning
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Providing teachers with a model of student-centred learning they can apply in their subject 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Present teachers with a model for project-based learning that can be applied in any subject
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Helping teachers to integrate students' digital media use into their teaching 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Set up a student 'think-tank' to explore ways in which social media can be used as a tool for learning in different subjects

Citizenship education



AREAS FOR DEVELOPMENT	RECOMMENDATIONS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teaching students the skills required for effective participation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Equip Civic Education teachers with practical strategies and resources for explicit teaching of the skills of effective participation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Helping students to reflect critically on their experiences of participation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Provide Civic Education teachers with debriefing techniques they can use with students after activities