



Pike County Schools

Self-Direction-Voice & Choice

Right click hyperlinks to open in a new tab.

Definition/Purpose

A learning strategy that encourages learners to take responsibility for their learning process (diagnosing learning needs, determining learning objectives, choosing learning strategies, and evaluating learning success and outcomes). A self-directed learner can formulate a strategy and recognize the tools, resources, and strategies needed for his or her own learning. Self-directed learning habits and characteristics contribute to intrinsic motivation, honesty, authority, commitment, perseverance, and grit. From: <https://unremot.com/blog/self-directed-learning/> (sometimes also referred to as self agency)

Why Choice?

Learning that incorporates student choice provides a pathway for students to fully, genuinely invest themselves in quality work that matters. Participating in learning design allows students to make meaning of content on their own terms.

There are times when students are able to pursue their passions and independently create projects, and other times when students can be given choice in smaller, yet meaningful, ways. The parameters of choice vary depending on the cycles of the school year, the specific students, the project, and many other factors. Regardless of the scenario, maintaining a focus on student choice helps to create learning environments of meaning where student voices matter.

Voice: the term voice refers to the values, opinions, beliefs, perspectives, and cultural backgrounds of the people in a district, school, or school community—especially students, teachers, parents, and local citizens—as well as the degree to which those values, opinions, beliefs, and perspectives are considered, included, listened to, and acted upon when important decisions are being made in a district or school. The most common variations are student voice, teacher voice, and parent voice. From: EdGlossary

Resources and Tools

[Dial Up Self Direction \(Learner Led vs. Teacher Led\)](#)

[Inspiring Inquiry-Learner Agency](#)

[Students at the Center Hub](#)

[The Process for Self-Directed Learning](#)

[How to Make Student Choice Work | Edutopia](#)

[Student Choice Leads to Student Voice](#)



Examples

Student-led action video: ["Dare to be Confident"](#)

Video: [5th Grade Dance Party...A Pathway to Curiosity and Engagement](#)

