

WHAT IS THE PLUS PROGRAM

The PLUS Program is part of the Safe School Climate Network, a network of K-12 schools and districts working together to create safe environments for students. PLUS is one of the programs the network uses. Together with Direction and the School Climate and School Safety Conferences, it forms the instrument member schools use to turn student data and student voice into action.

School climate is the pattern of experiences students have on campus. PLUS is the evidence-based system a district uses to find those patterns and change them.

HOW THE NETWORK WORKS

THREE PARTS, AND THE PROGRAM BEHIND EACH ONE

1 PROTECT Data shows what students are experiencing on campus and flags warning signs early, so adults can act before a problem grows. POWERED BY DIRECTION directionsurvey KNOWLEDGE TO ACTION directionsurvey.com	2 CONNECT Student voice is gathered by trained student leaders, who reach their peers and connect them with adults who can help. POWERED BY THE PLUS PROGRAM PLUS PEER LEADERS UNITING STUDENTS The 30-day cycle	3 EDUCATE Staff and student leaders train together and learn from other member schools at shared trainings and two annual conferences. POWERED BY OUR CONFERENCES SCHOOL CLIMATE CONFERENCE SCHOOL SAFETY CONFERENCE Conference dates
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HOW THE PROGRAMS WORK TOGETHER

STUDENTS GATHER THE INFORMATION AND LEAD THE RESPONSE

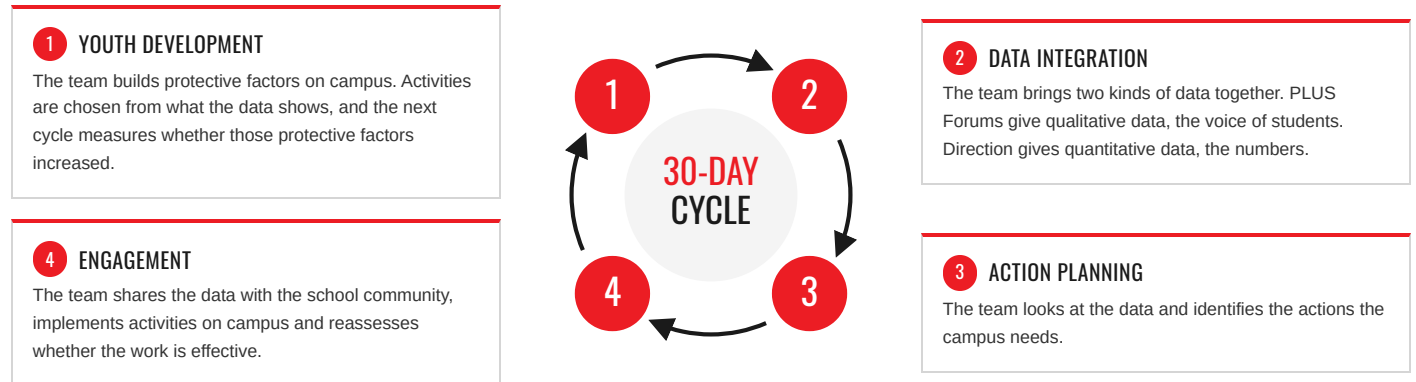
The network mobilizes young people to be part of the solution. Students are the source of the information a school needs, and they carry the response to their peers. Direction and the PLUS Program are used together so a school has both the numbers and the reasons behind them.

QUANTITATIVE DATA directionsurvey KNOWLEDGE TO ACTION Every member school uses Direction Students answer short surveys through the school year in the same database every member school uses. The results show how many students are affected by an issue and whether that number is moving.	QUALITATIVE DATA PLUS PEER LEADERS UNITING STUDENTS Every member school has a PLUS Team PLUS students hold Forums with a new group of their peers each time. What students say in the Forum is recorded, and it explains what is behind the survey results.
STUDENT-LED ACTION Young people do the work at the student level With both kinds of information in hand, the PLUS Team creates the activities the campus needs and leads them with their peers. Adults receive a report they can act on, and students see their input put to use on their own campus.	
ACROSS THE NETWORK Real-time data shared across districts Because every member school uses the same database, current data can be shared across schools and districts. Members see the latest trends as they develop and can compare their campus with the rest of the network.	TWO NATIONAL CONFERENCES The data drives the workshops Data from Direction and the PLUS Program sets the agenda and the workshops at the School Climate Conference and the School Safety Conference, so members train on the trends the network is seeing.

The 30-day cycle is how a PLUS school carries out this work each month.

THE 30-DAY CYCLE

The 30-day cycle is the method at the center of the PLUS Program, and it is how a PLUS Team builds protective factors in the school and mitigates the risk factors. It is built into the curriculum, so the PLUS class works through it as part of its regular coursework. Every 30 days the team gathers information from students, plans a response and acts on it. That short turnaround keeps the time between what students report and what the school does about it to a single month. The cycle has four parts.



THE FOUR WEEKS OF A 30-DAY CYCLE

WEEK ONE SURVEY	WEEK TWO FORUM	WEEK THREE PLAN	WEEK FOUR ENGAGE
A Direction survey goes to no more than 10 percent of the campus for a pulse on the last 30 days.	Students from across the campus, a new group each cycle, talk through what they are experiencing.	The team lays the survey results beside what students said in the Forum and plans activities for the areas that need them.	The team leads the activity on campus and shares a report with the school's partners.

NINE CYCLES EACH SCHOOL YEAR

School climate is a pattern of experiences. Repeating the cycle each month shows the team which issues keep coming back, and those are the issues the team works on.

AUG Team prepares	SEP CYCLE 1	OCT CYCLE 2	NOV CYCLE 3	DEC CYCLE 4	JAN CYCLE 5
FEB CYCLE 6	MAR CYCLE 7	APR CYCLE 8	MAY CYCLE 9	JUN	JUL

RESEARCH PARTNERS

PLUS has been studied alongside universities across the country, and that work is ongoing. Faculty at the University of California, Berkeley, the University of Oregon and the University of Florida have examined how PLUS affects attendance, school climate and district decision-making. The research centers on youth participatory action research, in which students gather and study the data about their own schools. A five-year study with the University of Oregon, funded by the William T. Grant Foundation, is now building on that evidence.

STOP DOING THE RESEARCH ON THE KIDS, AND LET THE KIDS DO THE RESEARCH ON THEMSELVES.



STUDENT VOICE AND DATA

PLUS gives a district a formal structure for hearing from its students. A trained team of student leaders gathers what their peers are experiencing, every cycle, and reports it to the adults who make decisions. Student voice becomes a regular source of information for the district, in the same way attendance and achievement data are. PLUS brings two kinds of data together, and each one covers what the other cannot.

QUALITATIVE DATA

THE PLUS FORUM

The voice of students. In the Forum, students explain what is happening on campus and what they think would help.

QUANTITATIVE DATA

DIRECTION

The numbers. Direction shows how many students are experiencing an issue and whether that number is moving from cycle to cycle.

Together they drive the activities and actions a campus needs, not only the ones it wants.

QUALITATIVE DATA

THE PLUS FORUM

The PLUS Forum is where the team gets its qualitative data. It is a conversation led by students. The PLUS Team invites students from across the campus, and a new group comes each cycle. In small groups, students work through three questions.

QUESTION ONE

WHAT ARE THE ISSUES

Students name the issues they see and experience on campus.

QUESTION TWO

HOW DO THEY IMPACT US

Students describe how each issue affects them and the school.

QUESTION THREE

WHAT CAN WE DO ABOUT IT

Students offer ideas for what students and the campus can do.

4

CRITICAL ISSUES

Students then vote on the issues that matter most. Each Forum identifies the top four critical issues impacting the student body. Those four priorities tell the PLUS Team which activities are needed on its campus, and those are the activities the student leaders plan and lead.

WHAT THE VOTE LOOKS LIKE

Example from one Forum

BULLYING ✓✓✓✓✓✓✓

TOP FOUR

MENTAL HEALTH ✓✓✓✓✓✓✓

TOP FOUR

EXCLUSION ✓✓✓✓✓

TOP FOUR

HARASSMENT ✓✓✓✓

TOP FOUR

VAPING ✓✓

FIGHTS ✓

HOW THE TOP FOUR ARE USED

The top four critical issues become the focus for the PLUS class and drive its action plan for the cycle.

1 PLAN

The team builds activities that address those issues.

2 SHARE

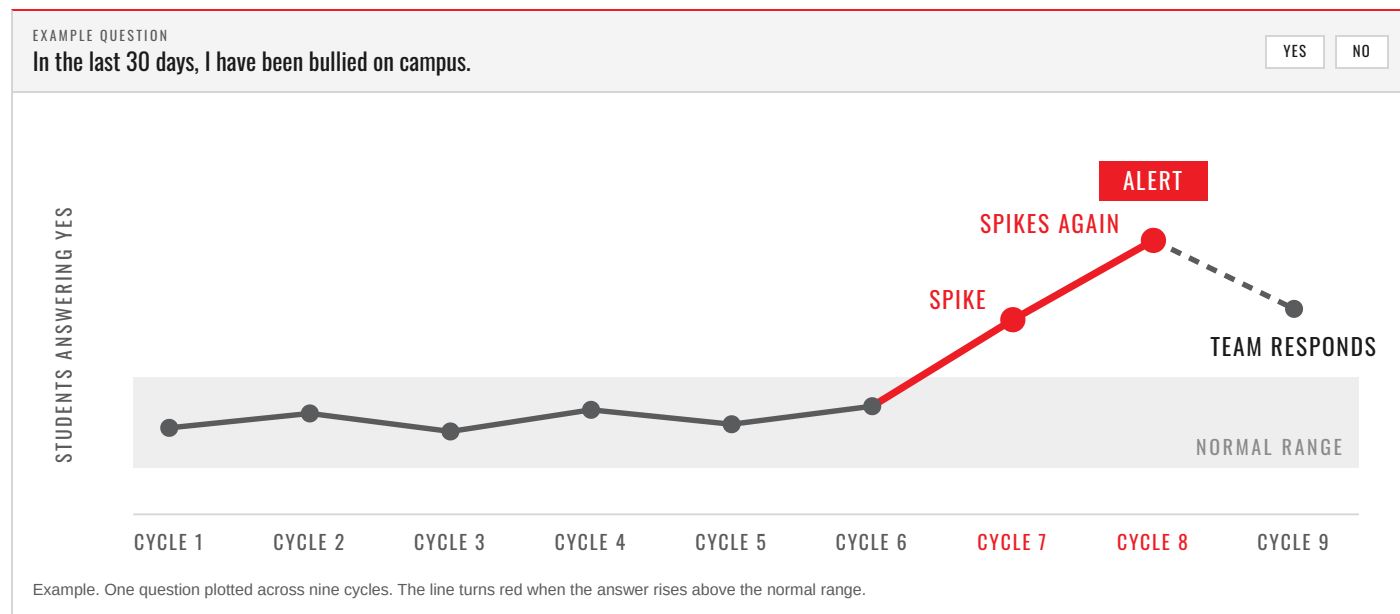
The team shares the data with the school community.

3 REPORT UP

The top four go to site administration and on to the district office, so every level is working from the same priorities.

USING DIRECTION

Direction is where the team gets its quantitative data. It holds a bank of short yes or no questions about what students have experienced in the last 30 days. Each cycle, the PLUS Team sends a survey to no more than 10 percent of the campus, and the results come back in real time. Because the same questions are asked every cycle, the answers can be compared from one month to the next.



1 ASK

The team chooses questions from the bank and asks the same ones every cycle. A school or district can add its own questions.

2 TREND

Direction plots each question from cycle to cycle, so the team can see whether an issue is holding steady, improving or getting worse.

3 RESPOND

When a risk factor spikes, and spikes again the next cycle, Direction alerts the team and takes it to the clearinghouse of activities and resources for that issue. Those activities become the action plan for the next cycle.

Every school that answers the same question helps set the normal range for it. That shared range is how Direction can tell a team when its campus is running high on a risk factor and needs a response.

INFORMATION TO ACTION

What students report does not stay in the classroom. The information moves up from the students to the district office, so every level is working from the same priorities.

THE CYCLE REPORT

Each cycle ends with a report of the data and the actions the PLUS Team is taking. It shows the survey results, the top four critical issues from the Forum and the activities planned in response.

The report goes to:

PRINCIPAL

COUNSELORS

TEACHERS

DISTRICT LEADERS

DISTRICT OFFICE



SITE ADMINISTRATOR



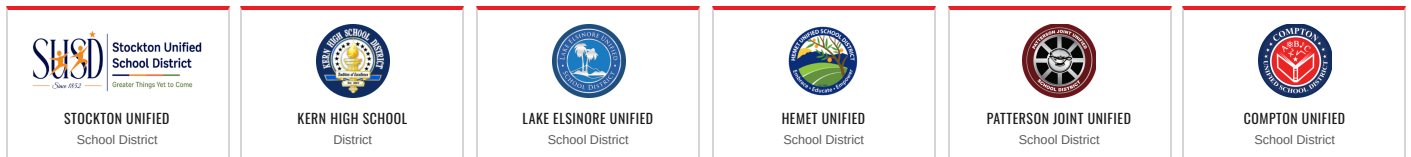
PLUS TEAM



STUDENTS

DISTRICTS IMPLEMENTING PLUS

These are some of the districts running PLUS across their school sites.



AN EXTENSION OF WHAT YOU ALREADY DO

Your district already runs MTSS and PBIS, school safety plans, mental health supports and community schools. PLUS is part of that program plan. It gives each of these systems a trained team of students who work in partnership with the adults.

SCHOOL AND ADULT LEVEL

MTSS / PBIS

Data-informed decision making, tiered supports and schoolwide systems for expectations, teaching and recognition.

SAFE SCHOOLS

Strategies and programs that promote safety, prevent violence and support school wellness.

MENTAL HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Supports that build self-awareness, self-management, positive relationships and responsible decision-making.

COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

Integrated student supports, family and community engagement, and shared leadership.

STUDENT LEVEL: PLUS

PLUS IS MTSS / PBIS

→ Student voice, experiences and data drive action. Students lead recognition, belonging and positive school culture.

PLUS IS SAFE SCHOOLS

→ Students report, engage and communicate to build safer, more connected schools.

PLUS BUILDS SCHOOLWIDE WELL-BEING

→ Students practice communication, relationship-building and self-management peer to peer.

PLUS IS COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

→ Students assess needs each cycle, share the data with families and partners, and take part in the decisions.

PLUS IS THE STUDENT-LEVEL EXTENSION OF WHAT YOU ALREADY DO AT THE ADULT LEVEL.

Together, we create a school climate where every student can thrive.

THREE WAYS TO START

CLUB

Information to Action

For a club, ASB or leadership group you already run.

FIRST YEAR

\$1,495

EACH YEAR AFTER

\$995

CLASS

PLUS Program

For a school running PLUS as a year-long leadership course.

FIRST YEAR

\$3,495

EACH YEAR AFTER

\$1,495 three year agreement
\$1,995 year to year

DISTRICT

PLUS districtwide

For a district with five or more sites.

EACH YEAR

\$1,495 per school site

\$2,995 for the district

ON-SITE TRAINING

\$3,500 per day, plus travel and lodging

WHAT EACH LEVEL INCLUDES

INCLUDED	CLUB Information to Action	CLASS PLUS Program	DISTRICT PLUS districtwide
TRAINING			
Student Voice: Forum and Data Development Training, one day	1 Advisor		
2-Day PLUS Program Development Training, first year		Team of up to 4	On site
Interactive Training Manual	Modified version	✓	✓
Training registration for one new staff member each year		✓	✓
PLUS Team training for student leaders		Optional, added cost	Optional, added cost
GUIDES AND PLANNING TOOLS			
Forum Training and Implementation manual	✓	✓	✓
Direction User Guide	✓	✓	✓
Advisor Implementation Manual		✓	✓
Master Calendar for the 30-day cycles		✓	✓
PLUS Cycle Report template		✓	✓
Partners Guide, with briefs for administrators, counselors, teachers, school resource officers and board members		✓	✓
CURRICULUM			
Access to the PLUS Exchange curriculum		✓	✓
High school Teacher Guide and Student Workbook		✓	✓
Middle school Teacher Guide and Student Workbook		✓	✓
Weekly lesson slide decks		✓	✓
PLUS Team Leadership lesson library		✓	✓
Youth development activities		✓	✓
YPAR project guides and student workbooks		✓	✓
Cross-Age Mentoring lessons		✓	✓
Ten-Minute Lessons		✓	✓
PLUS Impact student badge pathway		✓	✓
Curriculum alignment to civic engagement seals		✓	✓
DIRECTION			
Annual subscription to Direction	✓	✓	✓
Direction survey access	Limited	Unlimited	Unlimited
Direction manager accounts	1 manager	Multiple managers	Multiple managers
Clearinghouse of activities and resources	Limited	Unlimited	Unlimited
Bullying surveys for students, staff and parents		✓	✓
Likert scale surveys developed with universities		✓	✓
Create your own questions		✓	✓
Download raw data			✓
Data for each school site, viewed by the district			✓
Cumulative district data across all sites			✓
Assign surveys to specific school sites			✓
CONFERENCES			
Registration each year to the School Climate Conference or the School Safety Conference		1 registration	1 per site, plus 1 for the district office

Limited means a set number of survey questions and activities, and a set number of surveys each year. A second Club Advisor may attend the one-day training for \$995. A school that moves from the Club level to the Class level attends the 2-Day training and pays the Class level first year price.

Pricing as of October 2026

HOW TO GET STARTED

Three steps launch the PLUS Program at your school or district.

1

IDENTIFY YOUR PLUS STAFF

PLUS is managed by a staff team at your site. Each member has a part in making sure that what students report leads to action.

ADMINISTRATOR

Supports PLUS schoolwide, makes time for the class and the Forums, and acts on the cycle report.

COUNSELOR

Connects what students report to student support and helps the team respond.

PLUS ADVISOR

The teacher who leads the PLUS class, prepares the student team and runs the 30-day cycle.

2

CHOOSE YOUR LEVEL

Club is for a club, ASB or leadership group you already run. Class is for a school running PLUS as a year-long leadership course. District is for a district with five or more sites. Page 6 shows what each level includes.

3

ATTEND A TRAINING

Class and District levels attend the 2-Day PLUS Program Development Training. The Club level attends the one-day Student Voice: Forum and Data Development Training. Trainings are held regionally throughout the year. Look for a training in your area at plusprogram.org/upcoming-trainings.

DISTRICTS MAKE PLUS A PRIORITY BY GIVING IT A CLASS PERIOD AND THE TIME TO HELP BUILD SAFE AND SUPPORTIVE SCHOOLS.

PART OF THE NETWORK



PROTECT | CONNECT | EDUCATE

The safe school climate network for K-12 schools

plusprogram.org

pce@pcesolutions.org

866.403.9484