

# Students Speak Out

## ***What is Students Speak Out?***

In the summer of 2007, the Citizens League launched [www.StudentsSpeakOut.org](http://www.StudentsSpeakOut.org), a social networking website designed to elevate student voices in education policy conversations. Now, two student groups are working to come up with solutions to policy problems they have identified in their schools.

## ***Student groups***

The **School Safety – Minneapolis Public Schools** group has five members. Three are current Minneapolis Public Schools students, one graduated last year and now attends the University of Minnesota, and one chose to leave the school district for a charter school.

The **Students Speak Out Goes Alternative** group has six members. Four attend Alternative Learning Centers throughout Minnesota, one attends a charter school in St. Paul, and one attends an online charter school.

## ***Issues***

The School Safety – Minneapolis Public Schools group is focusing on whether increasing trust between students and teachers can decrease bullying and harassment in schools.

The Students Speak Out Goes Alternative group is investigating the assumptions people make about alternative school students and how those assumptions impact alternative schools and who attends them.

## ***Process***

Both groups are using [www.StudentsSpeakOut.org](http://www.StudentsSpeakOut.org) to gather evidence from students, parents, teachers and others who are involved with education. They are conducting video interviews, posting stories about their experiences (and inviting others to post their own stories) on the website's discussion forums, and developing a survey to gather input from a wide range of people.

Once they have collected these stories, the student groups will use them to identify key themes and come up with solutions that they will work to implement in their schools.