WHY
participate in FRSLI?

1. Learn how to make your voice heard
2. Be inspired by dynamic speakers
3. Get to know students from other schools
4. Pitch your ideas for change to top decisionmakers
5. Return for Years 2 & 3 to make an even greater impact and earn college credit for your work

"You are being given a chance to change the future of your school. Take it!""

- 2023-2024 participant

GET READY FOR A
GREAT EXPERIENCE

If you've been nominated to participate:

- **Ask your parent or guardian to complete the Permission Form**
- **Share the meeting dates with your teachers**

Permission forms are available from your Principal, or complete the form online at:
https://bit.ly/24-25Permission
or follow the QR Code

The First Ring Student Leadership Institute was developed in partnership with Cleveland State University's College of Education and Public Affairs.

Sponsors include:

CSU
Cleveland State University

First Ring Schools Collaborative
ADVANCING EDUCATION TOGETHER

MARTHA HOLDEN JENNINGS FOUNDATION

EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTER
of Northeast Ohio

and
Participating school districts

For more information about FRSLI go to www.escneo.org/StudentLeadershipInstitute.aspx

BECOME A
VOICE OF CHANGE

FIRST RING
STUDENT LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE
2024-2025

Empowering students to transform their schools and communities through research & advocacy

What if you could help solve the most challenging issues facing students?

The First Ring Student Leadership Institute (FRSLI) empowers high school students like you to recognize the issues impacting their lives, give voice to their unique perspectives about those issues and take an active role in solving them. Past participants have helped increased access to mental healthcare in their schools, implemented programs to improve school culture and shared student-centered solutions for absenteeism with state leaders.

FRSLI is built on a social justice framework called Youth Participatory Action Research (YPAR) that recognizes students as experts in their own experiences and emphasizes student-adult collaboration to make change. Entering the program as sophomores, students work in school teams to identify an important issue in their school, research the nature and scope of the problem, and at the final meeting pitch their recommended solutions to principals and superintendents. As juniors and seniors, students can return for a second and third year in the program to work collectively on a state-level issue in education while helping lead the program.

Participants attend 8 all-day sessions during the school year where they share their ideas, engage in hands-on activities and collaborate with students from other districts.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE FOR 2024-2025:

- **Oct. 15 (8:00-1:30)** -- Cleveland State University
- **Nov. 14 (TBD)** -- Ohio State University
- **Dec. 11 (8:00-1:30)** -- Cleveland State University
- **Jan. 23 (8:00-1:30)** -- Cleveland State University
- **Feb. 12 (8:00-1:30)** -- Cleveland State University
- **Mar. 12 (TBD)** -- Cleveland State University
- **Apr. 8 (8:00-1:30)** -- Cleveland State University
- **May 7 (8:00-1:30)** -- St. Michael's Woodside, Broadview Heights, Ohio

YEAR 1

Use your voice to make change

- Work with other students in your school to research the nature, causes and potential solutions to an issue that affects you
- Collaborate with students from other schools in Northeast & Central Ohio
- Learn research, presentation & advocacy skills from experts
- Pitch your ideas to principals and superintendents

"I have a voice that can cause true change!"

YEAR 2 & 3

Amplify your voice & broaden your impact

- Work collectively to research a regional- or state-level issue
- Share your data & recommendations with decision makers and collaborate with them to solve the issue
- Mentor incoming sophomores at critical points in their YPAR projects & lead FRSLI activities

"The program has taught me to be a better version of myself"

About YPAR

Youth Participatory Action Research (YPAR) is a social justice framework that empowers young people by recognizing them as experts of their own life experiences. Students investigate an issue they feel passionate about and collaborate with adult decision-makers to transform their environments.

YPAR builds students' leadership and social emotional skills through culturally relevant project-based deep learning. At the end of the program participants have the knowledge, leadership skills and sense of agency to solve critical issues within their schools and communities.