Model for implementing “Students´ participation and influence in school ground design”

The model presented below is developed for elementary schools.

1. Assignment to design a school ground must be ordered by the municipality.

2. A municipal official coordinates and directs the work.

3. Participating student groups are determined by dialogue with the principal and educators at the school.

4. All participants in the assignment, students, educators and municipal officials are involved at an early stage.

5. A workgroup consisting of student councils, educators from different subject areas and municipal officials, meet and fine-tune the assignment based on the model.

6. Municipal officials visit the school to inform and educate participating students about the municipality’s democratic work, municipal government and the work process of establishing a school ground. If time is available, students can also visit the relevant municipal departments.

7. The assignment given to the students should have timeframes, a clear purpose and goal description at a difficulty level that the students can understand.

8. The students, along with educators, perform the assignment from different subject perspectives.

9. The municipal officials visit the school to review achievements against set objectives during ongoing work.
10. A consultation Council is conducted using a civil dialogue focused on health promotion and stimulating learning environments. The participants should consist of a balanced composition between the number of students and adults. Approaches in the consultation Council:

a. Students present their suggestions in the way they wish, for example verbally, with models, digitally, on stage. At the presentation, the adults ask developing questions to strengthen the students' thoughts about their proposal.

b. All presented proposals are discussed and valued according to the assignment framework using citizen dialogues in mixed age groups.

c. The dialogue leads to decisions on which proposals will inspire and form the basis for the final design of the school ground. This can happen, for example, by voting.

11. The municipality is building the school ground using the proposed proposals as a basis, and the students are constantly following developments.

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