

WHOLE CHILD, WHOLE DAY

WHAT DOES SUPPORTING THE WHOLE CHILD
LOOK LIKE, SOUND LIKE, AND FEEL LIKE?

photo courtesy of Young Women Empowered

This opening poem for the Whole Child, Whole Day mini-grantee celebration, crafted by Mona Grife, weaves the responses from attendees when asked, "what does supporting the whole child look like, sound like, and feel like?"

There is a young person smiling at the idea of
going to school, going home, or going to their after school program.

They are feeling valued and supported at these places.

Being there, feels uplifting, joyful, healthy, and fun.

They feel a sense of belonging.

It feels like an entire community wrapping their arms around them.

It feels like growth, exploration, challenges, and gratitude.

It sounds like listening to youth voices and
providing supportive spaces in which they can express themselves.

It sounds like a young person feeling all their feels no matter what.

It sounds like laughter.

At this place, they are seen as a human being, not just a test score or an academic placement.

They are seen for who they are, their strengths.

They are being met where they are, instead of what others think they should be.

This place is an environment that is culturally responsive and
affords access, opportunity, representation, and agency.

The adults are learning as much as possible about their youth,
understanding their home lives, including their culture,
to celebrate every aspect of them that makes them unique.

At this place, the youth and their family are at the center
of the work being done and decisions being made.

Relationship. Education. Empowerment. Community Voice. Partnerships. Strengths Lens.

There is a young person fearlessly being who they are, eyes wide open-
understanding that their minds, hearts, bodies and relationships are all valued.

