

Student Participation in School Governance: The Views of Rural School Principals

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ABSTRACT The aim of this paper is to explore the views of rural school principals on student participation in school governance in South Africa. An argument is presented that although student leadership is taken as a *fait accompli* in many schools, the reality is that in rural schools, this still remains a wishful thinking. Apart from a literature review on student participation in school governance, the paper reports on a study in which empirical investigation based on quantitative research paradigm was used to collect data from rural school principals. The literature findings revealed that student participation in school governance is a critical component of education in South Africa. The study is concluded by the submission that it is essential for the student leaders to be given necessary training so that they can have a working knowledge of school governance activities.