

## Student Engagement

### Definition

Student engagement is defined as the student's 1) active participation in academic and co-curricular or school-related activities and 2) commitment to educational goals and learning. Engaged students find learning meaningful and are invested in their learning and future. Engagement is a multidimensional construct that consists of academic, behavioral, cognitive, and affective subtypes (Christenson, Stout, & Pohl, 2012).

### *Subtypes of Engagement*

<b>Subtype</b>	<b>Observable Indicators</b>	<b>Facilitated By:</b>
Academic	Time on task, academic engaged time, accrual of credits	Utilizing after-school programs (tutoring, homework help), increasing home support for learning, implementing self-monitoring interventions
Behavioral	Attendance, fewer suspensions, classroom participation	Devising a personalized approach to attendance and participation issues, implementing programs to address skills such as problem solving and anger management, developing behavior contracts to address individual needs
<b>Subtype</b>	<b>Internal Indicators</b>	<b>Facilitated By:</b>
Cognitive	Perceived relevance of schoolwork, self-regulation toward goals, meta-cognition	Using problem solving skills, setting realistic goals, creating an active interest in learning
Affective	Identification with school, belonging, perceived connection at school with teachers and peers	Increasing support from parents and teachers, building personal relationships with marginalized students, assisting students with personal problems

## Recommendations for Fostering Student Engagement and Achievement Motivation

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- Programs motivating students allow for close adult-student relationships; knowledgeable, skilled, and caring teachers enhance student engagement.
- Motivation and engagement are enhanced in well-structured educational environments with clear, meaningful purposes; with a challenging curriculum, high expectations, and academic press; and with a challenging but individualized curriculum that is focused on understanding, particularly for disengaged students.
- Motivation and engagement are enhanced when students have multiple pathways to competence. Engagement increases in environments where students have some autonomy selecting tasks and methods and play an active role in learning.
- Motivation and engagement are enhanced in a school community that engenders a sense of support and belonging, with ample opportunities to interact with academically engaged peers.
- Motivation and engagement are enhanced where students develop education and career pathways, and where there are opportunities to learn the value of schoolwork for future educational and career prospects.
- Motivation and engagement are enhanced when there are strong ties linking the school with students' families and community professionals.
- Motivation and engagement are enhanced when the organizational structure and services of schools address students' nonacademic needs.

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Source: National Research Council. (2004). *Engaging schools: Fostering high school students' motivation to learn*. Washington, D.C: The National Academies Press.