

Focus Area: Student Engagement

Attributes:

1. The effects of school context on student engagement are partially mediated through their effects on psychological variables including beliefs about competencies and control (I CAN); values, and goals (I WANT TO); and a sense of belonging (I BELONG).
2. Schools with lower dropout rates have several common features including: a caring committed staff with a sense of shared responsibility and efficacy related to student learning who and student success; a school culture that encourages staff risk taking, self governance, and professional collegiality; a school structure that provides for a low student-teacher ratio and small class size to promote student engagement; and a school climate characterized by an ethics of caring and supportive relationships; respect, fairness, and trust.

Goal:

Strategy:

Some Effective Strategies

1. Systematically build relationships/connections for all students - Educators identify students who may not have a connection with a staff member (i.e., list all students names at grade levels and determine who knows the student) and match staff members and alienated students for future regular "mentor like" contact
2. Address size through implementation of smaller learning communities (e.g., freshman academies)
3. Enhance peer connections through peer assisted learning strategies
4. Implement mentoring and service learning programs (consider full range of mentors).
5. Assess school climate, evaluate, and utilize results to create supportive and welcoming environments.
6. Increase opportunities for greater participation in extra- curricular activities
7. Ensure fair and consistent implementation of school policies
8. Articulate a coherent set of values that focus on high expectations for learning and achievement for all students in the context of close and caring relationships with adults and peers that promote opportunities for success.



National Dropout Prevention Center for Students with Disabilities

What I Plan to Do	How I plan to Get it Done	What Resources I have / Will I need
1.	1.	1.
2.	2.	2.
3.	3.	3.