

# Student Engagement

## Creating a Culture of Academic Achievement

The obstacle that prevents many schools from providing all students with a rigorous and relevant education is a low level of student engagement. The intense focus on meeting state testing requirements coupled with a lack of active learning opportunities for students is resulting in an increasing number of disengaged students.

Experienced educators know that increasing student engagement is not easy. Solutions are individual and complex, and they require persistent effort and staff collaboration. The effort, though, is certainly worth it. If we can be successful in engaging students in rigorous and relevant learning, their futures, and the future of this nation, will be much brighter.

Engagement encompasses a student's individual and social needs and requires a stimulating environment that is motivating and stretches the learning process. Academic achievement is not just about test scores. It is about helping each student develop his or her abilities and acquire the cognitive, emotional, and behavioral characteristics of an engaged learner.

## Table of Contents

**Chapter 1: Engagement — Essential for Rigor and Relevance** defines student engagement and its connection to rigor and relevance as well as the consequences to learning if we lose sight of this critically important issue.

**Chapter 2: Student Perspective** delves deeper into what students are saying about school and learning. Several reports and data summarize the scope of the problem of disengagement.

**Chapter 3: Student Engagement — A Closer Look** explores the psychological basis of how and why students engage or disengage in school and focuses on relationship building as the key factor in increasing student engagement. The chapter also discusses the important role that family plays in the student engagement process.

**Chapter 4: Engagement-Based Learning and Teaching** is the heart of this kit and describes the conditions necessary to create high levels of student engagement. The engagement-based learning and teaching model outlines the steps that educators can take to address the problem of student engagement.

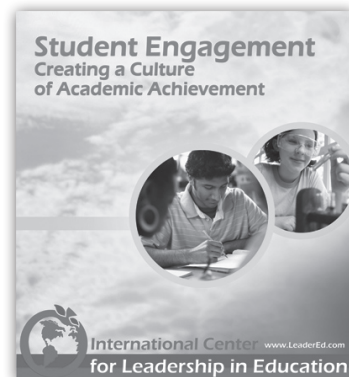
**Chapter 5: Improving Engagement Through School Culture** expands on school culture and how educators can provide the conditions that students innately desire.

**Chapter 6: Successful Engagement Practices** includes a wealth of best practices gleaned from K-12 schools across

**Student Engagement: Creating a Culture of Academic Achievement** will assist school leaders and teachers in the complex task of increasing student engagement. In addition to explaining the psychological underpinnings of disengagement, the kit is filled with practical suggestions on how to

1. make engagement a data-driven process
2. improve the school climate
3. support teachers in developing engagement-based teaching and learning.

Best practices from exemplary schools, checklists, and staff development activities are included. Two DVD presentations on student engagement and a CD with handouts and forms accompany the kit.



### Resource Kit

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\$295

the country. These dozens of practical examples are concrete initiatives that can be adapted to improve student engagement in other school environments.

**Chapter 7: Professional Development and Leadership Activities** offers leadership and professional development activities to elevate the importance of student engagement by helping teachers and administrators reflect on and modify education practices. Activities for students are included as well. Numerous checklists are provided to keep track of progress and measure success. Electronic versions of these checklists are included on the accompanying CD.

**Resources:** This section includes three items. The first is the Core Habits of Student Achievement. These seven habits are mentioned in the text and used in some of the activities in Chapter 7. The second item is the My Voice Student Report, which shares data on student aspirations surveys from schools in the International Center's "Models, Networks and Policies to Support and Sustain Rigor and Relevance for ALL Students" initiative. Finally, the Resource section lists references used in the kit plus additional useful materials.



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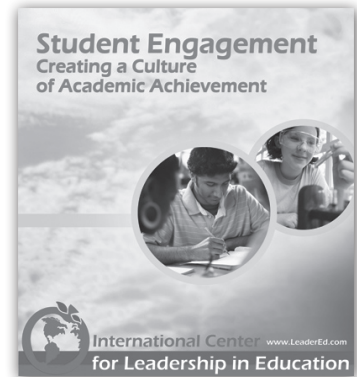
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