

Supportive Classroom Climate

In a supportive classroom...

Educators

- ✓ Address students by name
- ✓ Demonstrate warmth and care in communication
- ✓ Hold high expectations for all students
- ✓ Practice predictable classroom routines and activities
- ✓ Recognize and celebrate student efforts
- ✓ Incorporate student interests into learning activities
- ✓ Engage students as leaders and problem-solvers
- ✓ Teach strategies for problem-solving
- ✓ Positively reinforce desired behavior
- ✓ Redirect undesired behavior respectfully and discreetly
- ✓ Frame mistakes as opportunities
- ✓ Display meaningful student work



*Adapted from Indicators of Schoolwide SEL Walkthrough Protocol (CASEL, 2023).

Evidence-based Practices to Build a Supportive Classroom Climate

2x10 Relationship Building

Spend two minutes a day for ten consecutive days connecting with a student about their personal interests. Ask open-ended questions and engage with the student authentically about things not tied to academics. Research shows the 2x10 strategy can strengthen educator-student relationships and improve student behavior.

5:1 Ratio of Interactions

Pay attention to your communication with students and work toward a 5:1 ratio of positive to corrective interactions. Correctives include redirecting undesired behavior. Positives include praising effort or work, asking students for help, and/or discussing student interests. High rates of positive interactions can strengthen relationships, increase student engagement and decrease challenging behavior.

Peer Teaching/Tutoring

Provide students with opportunities to teach, learn and/or clarify concepts with classmates. Peer tutoring has been shown to bolster academic performance and social outcomes. Partner/group students with intention and mix groups to promote relationship building with all peers. Provide ice-breakers or opportunities for trust-building with new partners before academic content.

Positive Home Contact

Show your students and their families that you recognize and appreciate their effort, interests, and achievements by making phone calls or mailing a postcard home to share something good about a student. Positive communication with families can strengthen relationships between educators, students and families.

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Students

- ✓ Address teacher and classmates by name
- ✓ Share about their lives and personal interests
- ✓ Share ideas and perspectives related to content
- ✓ Seek and offer support when needed
- ✓ Make decisions about learning activities
- ✓ Lead procedures and transitions
- ✓ Seek to understand others' perspectives
- ✓ Work collaboratively with a wide range of peers
- ✓ Actively engage in academic tasks and discussions
- ✓ Use problem-solving strategies to resolve conflict
- ✓ Drive classroom discussions



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