Learner-Centered Teaching

Today's secondary educators teach students with a wide range of ability levels, talents and interests, cultural backgrounds, learning styles, and emotional profiles. Learner-Centered Teaching supports middle and high school teachers to use research-based instructional strategies and classroom practices to support academic engagement and foster positive and supportive relationships with each student and his or her class. Teachers will implement quality instruction, hold high expectations for all students, incorporate highly engaging and meaningful learning into their unit and lesson plans and develop interpersonal relationships with all students. These intentional efforts create class and school cultures where students are engaged emotionally, cognitively, and behaviorally.

> *"In fact, three of the four academic mindsets we have identified explicitly reflect the attitudes or beliefs of a student in a specific context: "I belong in this academic community," "I can succeed at this," and "This work has value for me." The fourth mindset, "My ability and competence grow with my effort," is likewise either reinforced or refuted by the context in which a student is expending effort to learn."*
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> *Teaching Adolescents to Become Learners. The Role of Noncognitive Factors in Shaping School Performance: A Critical Literature Review.* (2012) Chicago: University Of Chicago Consortium on Chicago School Research.

BENEFITS OF LEARNER-CENTERED TEACHING

Teachers learn: 1) the role of academic engagement and its impact on student learning and achievement; 2) a range of research-based instructional strategies, core practices, protocols, and procedures for engaging learners; 3) how to create a comprehensive vision of their classroom to support optimal learning; 4) Tier I & II instructional supports and interventions to ensure students' completion of high quality work; 5) how to model, teach, practice, and assess habits of learning and metacognitive or learning-to-learn skills that will positively impact students' capacity to meet the Common Core State Standards; 6) culturally responsive practice.

Students will: 1) master key learning protocols and processes, habits of learning, academic mindsets, and learning strategies to successfully tackle the heightened demands of the Common Core State Standards; 2) set goals, assess their progress, persist in difficult tasks, and master complex academic content resulting in students completing high-quality products and presentations; 3) take more responsibility for their own learning and record and assess their progress; 4) make connections between effort and achievement; 5) feel a sense of pride, competence, satisfaction, and enjoyment related to academic achievement and social interactions.

Student outcomes include:

- **Increases in** 1) course completion and GPA; 2) attendance; 3) self and social awareness, self management, relationship skills, and responsible decision making; 4) academic perseverance

- **Decreases in**: 1) failure rates, 2) classroom disciplinary referrals, 3) in-school suspension and out-of-school suspensions, 4) tardy rates and absenteeism, 5) drop-out rates

RESEARCH-BASED PRACTICES

Through targeted professional development teachers and leaders learn a universal set of research-based instructional strategies, core practices, protocols, and procedures that will reach and engage all learners – from the high achiever who is disengaged yet compliant, to the low performing student who feels disconnected and unmotivated. Researched-based practices include: formative assessment, responsive academic conferencing, group learning protocols, habits of learning, getting ready to learn, group procedures, and universal expectations.

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING SERVICES

Engaging Schools engages in a collaborative and comprehensive approach to professional learning in support of the growth and development of teacher practice, individually, in their teams, and as a whole staff. Professional learning services include: 1) The Learner-Centered Teaching Institute, 2) classroom instructional rounds, 3) proficiency modules, 4) embedded team coaching, 5) a peer classroom visitation framework.

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Engaging Schools works directly with principals, instructional coaches and other key academic leaders who have responsibility for teacher growth and development. Our learning cycle includes professional learning experiences, dialogue and discussion, instructional rounds, walk-throughs, data review and analysis, and professional goal setting as a team, and as individuals. This learning cycle is aimed at identifying strengths and opportunities for improving teacher practice and collegial dialogue. Engaging Schools incorporates a coaching model that reflects best practices to maximize capacity in school leaders' abilities to implement this learning cycle to foster teachers' competencies, dispositions, and efficacy.

MEASURING SUCCESS

Engaging Schools collaborates with schools to identify benchmarks for implementation of core practices in The Engaged Classroom, use assessment tools and protocols to monitor progress, and use data to support continuous improvement and measure outcomes.

ENGAGING SCHOOLS PUBLICATIONS

Engaging Schools resources that align with The Engaged Classroom service include:

1. *Making Learning Real: Reaching and Engaging All Learners in Secondary Classrooms*

2. *Activators: Classroom Strategies for Engaging Middle and High School Students*

ENGAGING SCHOOLS

Engaging Schools has provided high-quality services for districts and schools nationwide for over 30 years and has a proven track record of working with middle and high schools. Within the district and/or school, Engaging Schools identifies and leverages existing assets to address specific challenges. Engaging Schools' work includes a needs assessment, planning, consensus building, implementation, and preparation for sustainability.

To learn more about Learner-Centered Teaching for your school or district, connect with us at 800-370-2515, x32 or explore Engaging Schools' website, www.engagingschools.org

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SCHOOLS