



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.



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PROFESSIONAL SERVICES



Why Engaging Schools?

Effectively engaging middle and high school students offers constant challenges – and the best possible rewards. Engaging Schools helps educators address these challenges so adults and students in the school community can enjoy the benefits of productive, meaningful learning.

Engaging Schools collaborates with educators to create school communities where each and every student develops the skills and mindsets needed to succeed and make positive contributions in school, work, and life. We provide professional development and resources with practical strategies that integrate academic, social, and emotional learning and development. We specialize in collaborations with middle and high schools in urban settings.

ENGAGING SCHOOLS TEAM

Engaging Schools team members serve as thought partners to help districts and schools accomplish the complex work of school improvement. With over 30 years of experience, Engaging Schools is known for:

- **Expertise.** Our focus and skill in working with urban middle and high schools nationwide are unmatched.
- **Customization.** We tailor our services based on each district's and school's needs and resources.
- **Systemic approach.** We collaborate with leaders, teachers, support staff, students, and others to design and implement changes in school climate, culture, and instruction that are sustainable over the long term.
- **Hands-on training.** We use an experiential approach that reflects understanding of adult development and in which we model best practices.
- **Working with school leaders, faculty, and staff.** Everyone plays a role in helping students succeed.

Engaging Schools' Core Services

Through these research-based services, schools strengthen teacher effectiveness; develop a systematic, positive approach to school discipline that is integrated with student support; and create and implement advisory programs. Best outcomes are achieved by schools that integrate a combination of these services.

Engaged Classrooms

Engaged Classrooms offers a comprehensive approach to teaching and learning, classroom management, and discipline. Educators use research-based instructional strategies and classroom practices to build a classroom environment in which students feel safe, and are engaged and challenged. Students develop habits of learning and self-discipline that will be critical to their success.

The Engaged Classrooms approach is based on the recognition that effective teaching needs to address both instructional practices and classroom management. For schools that wish to focus on just one of these areas, we offer Learner-Centered Teaching and Guided Discipline. For more on these individual services, please visit our website: www.engagingschools.org.

After Engaged Classrooms implementation, schools report a more positive climate; improved attendance, course completion rates, and GPAs; and stronger academic perseverance. They also report lower rates of course failure, dropouts, late arrivals, absenteeism, disciplinary referrals, and suspensions.

Schoolwide Discipline and Student Support

Engaging Schools collaborates with district leaders, school administrators, school climate-discipline teams, and school-based student support teams to engage in a rigorous assessment of their current systems. This partnership helps districts and schools make strategic changes in policies, systems, and practices that align with the school's goals for discipline and student support, and shift to a model that is more fair, respectful, restorative, accountable, and viable. Engaging Schools also helps teachers develop an instructional, problem-solving, and supportive approach to discipline and classroom management, and instructional practices that foster greater engagement.

After implementing Schoolwide Discipline and Student Support, schools report improved climate and culture, fewer classroom disciplinary referrals and suspensions (both in-school and out-of-school), and lower rates of course failure, dropouts, late arrivals, and absenteeism. Schools also report higher attendance rates, course completion rates and GPAs.

Engaging Schools offers additional programs for middle and high schools on bullying, peer mediation, and conflict resolution. We continue to provide our highly regarded Resolving Conflict Creatively and Adventures in Peacemaking programs for early childhood, elementary, and afterschool providers. Contact us to learn more about these services.

Advisory Plus

Through Advisory Plus, students develop valuable academic behaviors, strategies, mindsets, and social skills. Each advisor learns how to provide a structured, safe environment where a small group of students develops the skills they need to set goals, manage tasks, and organize time and materials. Advisors learn how to provide embedded academic support and advisement for individual students and the group to foster post-secondary readiness and keep students on track for success.

After implementing Advisory Plus, schools report improved attendance rates as well as increases in self- and social awareness, self-management, relationship skills, and responsible decision making. Schools also report an improved school climate and lower rates of late arrivals and absenteeism.

HOW WE WORK WITH SCHOOLS

Engaging Schools offers educators various ways to use our expertise. Districts and schools can:

- ▶ **Partner with us.** We work with schools on customized longer-term efforts. These typically include needs assessment and strategic planning; a professional learning cycle for staff that includes multi-day institutes, an instructional rounds protocol, group embedded coaching, and additional training sessions; ongoing coaching and capacity building with school and district leaders; and data collection, review, and analysis.
- ▶ **Sponsor or attend an institute.** We offer institutes for each of our core services. Districts and schools can host an institute. Individuals and teams can also attend our open-enrollment workshops and institutes.
- ▶ **Use our resources.** We publish a variety of books and products aligned with our professional services. Featuring "read it today, use it tomorrow" tools and research-based strategies, our resources support the work of building high-achieving and caring classrooms, schools, and communities.

