Strategies to Support Aspirations

The teacher-generated strategies below support students on their Aspirations journeys. Remember that the quadrants are fluid—a student may appear to be in Hibernation at one point during a class or semester, yet Aspiration at another time.

IMAGINATION

- Utilize short-term and long-term SMART goal setting
- Celebrate students' effort and incremental successes
- Have students teach a lesson to peers
- Establish opportunities for students to mentor younger students
- Use online polling to get immediate student feedback and discuss the results with the students
- Incorporate service learning
- Involve students in hands-on learning and activities
- Incorporate technology in lessons and invite students to share the new, relevant technology they use
- Host a reality fair for students
- Include metaphorical thinking
- Have students apply skills they are learning to real life problems

ASPIRATION

- Incorporate metacognitive activities
- Co-teach with your students
- Help students develop their public speaking and presentation skills
- Incorporate service learning/community involvement
- Help students publish their writing, art work, websites, etc.
- Encourage students to enter academic contests
- Have students join online learning communities that you have approved
- Develop students' problem-solving skills
- Provide internship opportunities
- Encourage students to participate in online college classes
- Establish job shadowing opportunities for students
- Visit college campuses
- Connect students with school-wide leadership opportunities

HIBERNATION

- Utilize culturally relevant strategies
- Facilitate an "If You Really Knew Me" activity
- Arrange for an informal mentor to connect with a student for two minutes every day
- Ensure assignments are appropriately challenging—not too easy or too hard
- Foster peer support
- Chunk work into manageable parts
- Connect assignments and your examples to students' interests
- Set up achievable short-term goals (hourly, daily, weekly)
- Provide choice in assignments
- Re-evaluate the setup of your classroom
- Use gaming strategies
- Include student-selected topics of study
- Provide guided notetaking templates
- Take real and virtual field trips

PERSPIRATION

- Encourage students to sketch/doodle/journal
- Support divergent thinking
- Incorporate improv games
- Flip the learning in your classroom
- Ask students to articulate the purpose of lessons and the importance of subjects they're studying
- Allow students to direct projects
- Have students complete an interest profile
- Discuss work/career interests and possible paths to achieving personal goals
- Have students interview others about their goals and aspirations
- Include assignments that will not be graded
- Use collaborative learning
- Reward students' efforts
- Utilize vision boards