

1. Promote Student Voice and Choice

Students feel a stronger sense of Self-Worth when they are trusted with decisions. Help teachers design opportunities for:

- Choice in assignments and how learning is demonstrated
- Specific student roles in collaborative group work
- Students to share feedback about class activities



Coaching Tip: Offer a menu of choice-based strategies in your next PD or PLC.

2. Model Affirming Language

Encourage teachers to:

- Use **specific praise** focusing on effort, strategy, and progress (“I noticed you used context clues to figure out that word.”)
- Avoid fixed labels, both positive and negative (e.g., replace “You’re so smart” with “Your hard work really paid off.”)



Coaching Tip: During observations, note the ratio of affirming vs. corrective statements. Debrief with teachers about how language shapes student identity.

3. Integrate Identity-Affirming Practices

Support lesson planning that:

- Connects content to students' lives, cultures, and communities
- Includes diverse authors, scientists, historical figures, and problem-solvers
- Encourages students to share their perspectives and experiences in class discussions



Coaching Tip: Facilitate collaborative planning sessions to intentionally embed these practices across subjects.

4. Teach and Reinforce Growth Mindset

Students who see abilities as something they can develop are more resilient. Support teachers to:

- Use growth-oriented language every day
- Teach short lessons on brain science and learning
- Celebrate mistakes as a natural part of learning



Coaching Tip: Share anchor charts or visuals that reinforce these ideas for classroom display.

5. Build Relationships First

Strong teacher-student relationships are foundational to Self-Worth. Guide teachers to:

- Learn about students' interests, families, and goals
- Use quick daily check-ins (verbal and nonverbal) to gauge emotional wellbeing
- Create rituals that foster belonging (e.g. Monday welcomes, Friday celebrations)



Coaching Tip: During coaching cycles, focus on relationship-building strategies as much as instructional techniques.

6. Foster Community Building

A supportive community is essential for students to develop trust and respect for each other. Guide teachers to:

- Develop community norms in partnership with students
- Create opportunities for students to support one another and celebrate successes
- Observe the comfort level of students as they interact with each other and the teacher



Coaching Tip: Reflect on how you are a hero and supportive mentor to the teachers you work with every day.

Reflection Questions for Teachers

In your coaching conversations, consider these prompts:

- How do your students know you believe in them?
- When do students feel proud of themselves in your class?
- Whose voice is missing from today's lesson or discussion?
- What intentional steps can you take this week to grow student Self-Worth?