

Share with colleagues and then commit to making at least three changes in your practice.



What Does it Look Like When Teachers Foster Belonging?

- Students want to hang around your classroom/school, even after the bell.
- Students accept and welcome divergent viewpoints.
- Students are valued for their individuality.
- Bullying is addressed.
- Classroom/school rules are created *with* students, not for them.
- Students are proud of their school.
- Students are involved in co-curricular activities.
- Students' work is displayed.
- Students feel safe and secure at school.

Best Classroom Practices Related to Belonging

- Use each student's name daily.
- Greet students as they enter the building and the classroom.
- Know the hopes and dreams of students and incorporate these into teaching.
- Create opportunities for students to work collaboratively.
- Understand the individual learning strengths of each student.
- Be available to listen to students' concerns and fears.
- Create an inclusive learning environment.
- Address and minimize bullying issues in class.
- Ensure that examples and stories are relevant to the students.
- Show concern when students are absent from class/school.
- Help students understand and appreciate diversity.

Leader's Role in Promoting Belonging for Students

- Be visible in the hallways and greet students as they enter the building.
- Take the time to get to know the names of students and their interests.
- Teach a class to connect with students and share one of your skills or interests.
- Create opportunities for students to get to know one another across grade levels.
- Eat lunch with students.
- Develop an emotionally and physically safe school.
- Display student work throughout the school.
- Provide space on the school website for student opinions, ideas, and writings.
- Work with students to develop school pride.
- Invite graduates of the school back to visit and share their experiences.
- Create a meaningful and inclusive student council.
- Talk with groups of students on a regular basis to gather their thoughts about school life.
- Develop a program to welcome and support new students.
- Ride the school bus to experience how students start their day
- Allow students to create new clubs and organizations that represent their current interests.
- Celebrate and acknowledge a variety of activities, not just athletics.

Developing Strategies and Tactics

To enhance Belonging in your classroom, respond to the following prompts, then act.

1. To create a more welcoming classroom/school environment for students, I will . . .
2. To help know my students, and my students know each other, I will . . .
3. To show students I respect their opinions and ideas, I will . . .
4. To encourage students to help one another, I will . . .
5. To create projects and opportunities that involve all students, I will . . .
6. To recognize and celebrate the diversity of all students, I will . . .
7. To show students their uniqueness is appreciated, I will . . .
8. To convey to students that I genuinely care about them, I will . . .

