

Engagement takes root when schools ensure that students and staff are deeply involved in the learning process, showing enthusiasm and a desire to learn new things, as well as a willingness to take positive, healthy steps toward the future.

When students believe they have a voice they are **38%** more likely to report **Engagement**.

### **Fostering Students' and Teachers' Engagement in Learning**

The participation gap will decrease when students and teachers experience Fun & Excitement in the learning environment. Imagine a lesson or professional development session when students and teachers wonder at the end, "Where did that time go?" Students and teachers who are actively engaged in their school and learning also exhibit Curiosity & Creativity. They ask "Why?" or "Why not?" about the world around them, about curriculum, policies, procedures, norms, and customs. Finally, engaged students and teachers have a Spirit of Adventure. They are willing to try new things, regardless of whether they might succeed or fail. With Engagement, learning—and therefore participation in learning—becomes important in and of itself.

### **FUN & EXCITEMENT**



The Condition of Fun & Excitement is characterized by being intellectually engaged and emotionally involved in our schoolwork and professional lives. Students and teachers who exhibit Fun & Excitement are usually self-confident, curious, energetic, and prepared; they are willing and able to meet the challenges of the day. To foster Fun & Excitement in schools, students and teachers need to be offered new opportunities and meaningful challenges that are connected with their individual interests and the needs of the school.

### **CURIOSITY & CREATIVITY**



The Condition of Curiosity & Creativity is characterized by inquisitiveness, eagerness, intellectual engagement in learning, and a strong desire to learn new or interesting things. Curiosity invites the question "Why?" while creativity involves taking the initiative to ask "Why not?" The intensity of Curiosity & Creativity tends to diminish over time due to the habituating effects of the environment. To sustain student and teacher engagement, schools can devote extra attention to creating environments that promote questioning, problem solving, innovation, and creative exploration.

### **SPIRIT OF ADVENTURE**



The Condition of Spirit of Adventure is characterized by our ability to take on positive, healthy challenges at school and home, with family and friends. Students and teachers experience a Spirit of Adventure when they tackle something new without the fear of failure or success. When schools promote effective decision making and healthy risk taking, students and teachers can become more confident and resilient. Students and teachers with Spirit of Adventure see life as full of opportunities worth exploring for their own sake.