

### 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



*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.”)



*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



*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



*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)



*Tip:* 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



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

---

## Reflection Questions for Teachers

In conversations with your colleagues, 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?