

Professional Responsibilities

Building Effective Student-Teacher Relationships in Online Environments

Benefits of Student-Teacher Relationships

POSITIVE ACADEMIC PROGRESS

Positive student-teacher relationships are more likely to engage students and improve their attendance and academic progress.

PRIORITIZED STUDENT CONNECTIONS

Minority students benefit when relationships intentionally promote equity in a classroom, which can lead to their sense of belonging and greater success.



IMPROVED STUDENT BEHAVIOR

Positive student behaviors, such as cooperation and altruism, are boosted, and disruptive behaviors such as disruption and aggression greatly reduced.

BENEFICIAL PARENTAL INTERACTIONS

Parents are likely to cooperate and trust teachers more when teachers show genuine interest in their children and know them well.

Strategies for Building Student-Teacher Relationships

1 PURSUE CONNECTION

- ★ Be authentic. Share about life experiences and emotions. For example, share about pets or a favorite hobby.
- ★ Use the "2x10 theory". Spend 2 minutes a day for 10 days to intentionally connect with a set of identified students. For example, connection points could include questions about family, a class-wide activity, or their feelings.
- ★ Offer weekly virtual office hours via video conferencing platforms or phone calls. This provides an opportunity to personalized connections with students and their families.

2 INITIATE ENGAGEMENT

- ★ When videoconferencing, greet ALL students when they enter the virtual classroom to spur engagement.
- ★ Provide writing activities in which students write about themselves. For example, a writing prompt might be, "Which value is most important to you and why? How do you apply this value in your daily life?"
- ★ Incorporate book clubs into instruction, and allow students to choose from various books that interest them.

3 PERSONALIZE FEEDBACK

- ★ Provide personalized, constructive feedback. Focus on personalization by affirming individual effort and growth, and offering suggestions for improvement. Feedback needs to be shared with students in a timely manner.

References

Milken Educator Awards. (2020, July 28). Building relationships in the online classroom. <https://www.milkeneducatorawards.org/connections/articles/view/building-relationships-in-the-online-classroom>

The Albert Team. (2022, March 1st). *How to Build Relationships Virtually: The Ultimate Guide for Teachers*. <https://www.albert.io/blog/building-relationships-teaching-remotely/>