The Power of Student-Teacher Connection

1.14.2021 12:00pm EST

EDUCATING ALL LEARNERS
EDUCATINGALLLEARNERS.ORG

gradient learning

What is the Educating All Learners Alliance (EALA)?

To help ensure the continuity of special education services during remote instruction and to spotlight best practice approaches for schools and educators, an alliance of national education organizations has come together to ensure equity for all learners. EducatingAllLearners.org creates a hub of curated tools, strategies, tips and best practices for supporting students with disabilities online. Our goal is to both curate and create special education resources for educators to serve students who learn differently during this time of challenge.

EALA Founding Partners

Introductions

Marjorie Smalls
Business Development &
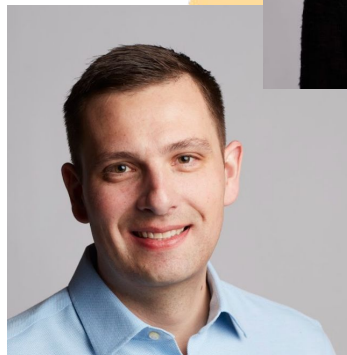Partnership Strategist
Gradient Learning

Susan Menkel
School and District
Success
Along

Geoff Osmun
School and District Success
Summit Learning Program

Kristel Hsiao
Professional Learning
Summit Learning Program

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Why are we here today?

2020

Need for Personal Connection

Students, especially those with disabilities

https://nceo.umn.edu/docs/OnlinePubs/NCEOBrief15.pdf
https://bellwethereducation.org

Who are we serving?

MENTAL HEALTH & AMERICA'S KIDS
SCHOOL'S MENTOR PROGRAM HELPING STUDENTS WITH STRESS
NBC NEWS

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What we know

Relationships → Engagement → **Academic Success**

Student-teacher relationships are critical to student engagement. [1, 2, 3]

At Gradient Learning, we define a developmental relationship...

... as a relationship in which both the teacher and the student grow.

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"When I got back to school I just kind of sat there on my phone and sulked. She just helped me get back on my feet and set goals again for myself."

What are signs of disengagement in **your** own students? How have relationships helped?

Even after controlling for differences in students' backgrounds, positive teacher-student relationships are associated with both short-term and long-term improvements in:

✓ Academic Engagement

✓ Attendance

✓ Disciplinary Issues (reduced)
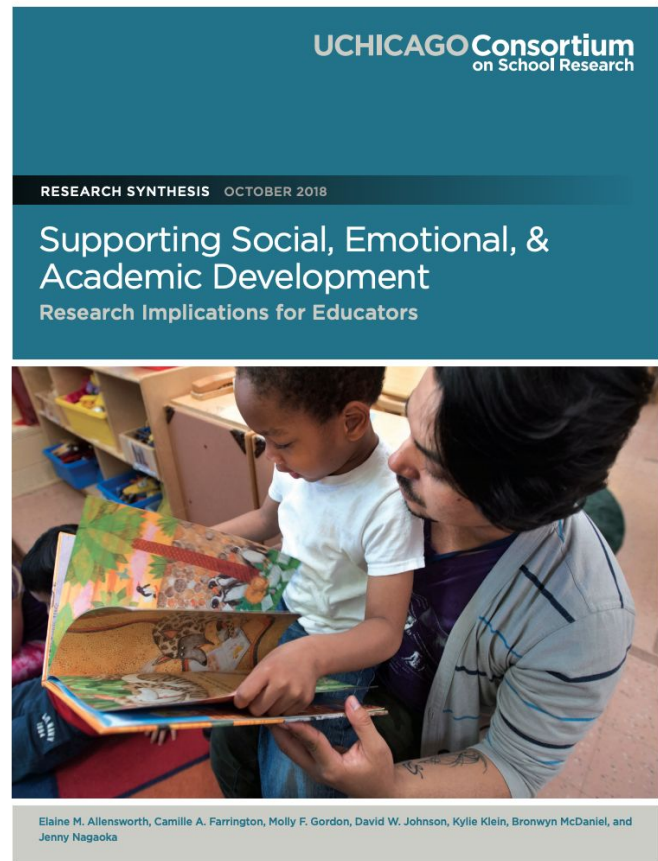
✓ High School Completion

What we know

Relationships → **Engagement** → **Academic Success**

Student engagement is critical to academic success. [4]

"Teachers are more often encouraged to focus on 'what' is being learned rather than to grapple with 'why' students are not fully participating in the process of learning."

(Allensworth et al., 2018)

UCHICAGO Consortium
on School Research

RESEARCH SYNTHESIS   OCTOBER 2018

Supporting Social, Emotional, & Academic Development
Research Implications for Educators

Elaine M. Allensworth, Camille A. Farrington, Molly F. Gordon, David W. Johnson, Kylie Klein, Bronwyn McDaniel, and Jenny Nagaoka

"Taking those types of things into account is really important because you don't know what anyone is going through. Especially times like now, our students are going through a lot."

What do <u>your</u> students need to be able to engage and put in effort in school?

Attendance and effort are the main drivers of students' academic success (grades, high school completion, and college readiness)...

...much more so than demographics, test scores, or course selection. [5, 6]

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Theory of Action

Relationships → Engagement → Academic Success

Okay... BUT HOW???
How can we build relationships and engage students?

How true these statements feel within a classroom **determines how likely** students are to focus their attention on learning and persevere with challenging academic tasks.

- **I belong** in this learning community.
- **I can succeed** at this.
- **My ability and competence grow** with my effort (also known as a "growth mindset").
- **This work has value for me.**

"In this time, teachers are beginning to realize (for those of us that didn't) that our students are human. They have good days, bad days, ugly days. And that, at this point, we are experiencing the same thing. The anxiety that we feel, they feel. The isolation that we feel, they feel. That it has now given teachers a moment to realize … we can show up for each other."

Tynetta Harris

Let's get practical

What are some teacher moves that help students:

- have a sense of belonging
- believe they can succeed
- have a growth mindset
- believe there is value in the work

Formalization for equity

1

Make a plan

2

Create buy-in

3

Set expectations, for yourself and with students

4

Expect setbacks

Next Steps

Check out some of these resources:

- **UChicago**
- **Search Institute**
- **Turnaround for Children**
- **5 Attachment Power moves**

You can also go to along.org and summitlearning.org

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Thank you!

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Learn more about the Educating All Learners Alliance (EALA)

www.educatingalllearners.org
@educateall_org
Check out our podcast on Apple and Spotify!

Q&A

"Student's don't care how much you know until they know how much you care"

- John C. Maxwell

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Additional References

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