

# BEGINNING TEACHER NEWSLETTER

## FOCUS: STUDENT ENGAGEMENT



### KARI

- Constantly being disciplined for failing to complete homework, talking in class, and not following directions.
- Loves to draw.
- Engages in conversation about current events, but doesn't like math or science.
- Outbursts are common during silent reading time.

***WHAT DOES STUDENT ENGAGEMENT LOOK LIKE?  
WHICH STUDENT IS MORE ENGAGED?***

### JAIDEN

- Comes to class on time.
- Sits quietly and follows directions.
- Not always prepared, but polite in asking for materials he has forgotten.
- Doesn't see a need for most classes he is taking and not sure what he will do after high school.
- Bright, but takes "easier" classes to avoid conflict.



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"Engagement is not about baiting a hook.  
It's about helping students find their spark  
and make their own fire."



# Keys to Student Engagement



## Autonomy

Give students choices in how they access content or demonstrate mastery.

*Example: Using a single rubric, allow students to write a persuasive essay about something important to them.*



## Competence

Assist students in setting goals and identifying learning strategies that work for them.

*Example:*

- *Before learning tasks begin: "Today I want to \_\_\_"*
- *After learning: "Did I achieve my goal?" and "These things helped (or didn't help) me learn today \_\_\_"*



## Relatedness

Listen to student conversations to learn what they are interested in and allow them to work together.

*Example: Greet students as they enter the classroom and organize peer mentoring opportunities.*



## Relevance

Connect what students are asked to do to things about which they genuinely care or are curious.

**READ THE FULL ARTICLE**  
**[STUDENT ENGAGEMENT: KEY TO PERSONALIZED LEARNING](#)**