



## Engaging Students with Poverty in Mind

### Engage to Build Cognitive Capacity

#### #1 Build Attention Skills

There are two primary types of attention. The first type is the hardwired variety: by nature, we are designed to orient our attention toward moving objects, rapid environmental changes, contrast or novelty.

The second type of attention – the one teachers ask for – refers to a learned skill. It takes practice to keep one’s attention toward the appropriate content or task.

Students who are raised in poverty typically have weaker attention spans. Fortunately, sustaining focused attention is a skill that can be taught.

#### “Short Term” Solutions you can use (p. 55):

1. Increase Buy-In
2. Use Prediction
3. Pause and Chunk
4. Engage in a fast physical activity
5. Play Red Light, Purple Light
6. Use “redirects”

#### “Long Term” Solutions you can use (p. 57):

1. Get Students Moving
2. Provide Practice
3. Teach students study skills
4. Use high-interest reading material
5. Conduct quick writes