

Teaching Expectations and Engagement: Setting the Stage for Success

Set clear, shared expectations with your students to foster mutual respect and accountability.

What Are Teaching Expectations and Engagement?

Teaching expectations and engagement focuses on establishing clear, shared behavioral and academic norms that foster collaboration, trust, and student ownership of learning. In Tier 1, it lays the foundation for a positive classroom culture by creating a shared understanding of expectations for all students. At Tier 2, this practice adapts to meet the needs of small groups or individuals, ensuring consistency and providing additional support. For Tier 3, expectations are personalized and aligned with intensive plans, offering students with significant challenges the structure and guidance they need to succeed.

Why Use It?

Collaborative Norms: Reduces disruptions through clear, co-created expectations.

Boosts Student Ownership: Motivates learners by clarifying the “why” behind classroom rules.

Supportive & Productive: Establishes a safe, consistent structure for everyone’s success.

Shared Accountability: Strengthens teacher-student relationships through mutual responsibility.

Enhances Growth: Improves academic and social-emotional outcomes for all.



The Research Says:

- » **Marzano:** Classroom rules and procedures improve outcomes (effect size: 0.76).
- » **Hattie:** Teacher clarity boosts academic success (effect size: 0.75).
- » **Restorative Practices Playbook:** Co-created norms promote emotional safety, trust, and collaboration.

Steps for Implementation

1. Collaboratively Set Norms:

- » Co-create agreements with students about behavioral and academic expectations.
- » Use restorative practices like circles to revisit and maintain norms.

2. Communicate Learning Objectives:

- » Share academic and behavioral goals at the start of each lesson.
- » Example: "Today we'll learn how to write persuasive essays while practicing respectful group discussion."

3. Model Expectations:

- » Demonstrate behaviors and academic processes. Use think-alouds and examples to illustrate success.

4. Engage Actively:

- » Include group work, interactive activities, and questioning techniques to involve students in learning.

5. Check for Understanding:

- » Use formative assessments (e.g., exit tickets) to ensure students understand expectations. Adjust strategies based on feedback.

Signs of Effectiveness

- » Students articulate classroom norms and learning objectives.
- » Behavioral disruptions decrease as collaboration increases.
- » Students actively engage in lessons and contribute to group discussions.
- » Teachers and students report stronger trust and connection.

Questions for Reflection

- » How can you involve students in creating shared classroom norms and goals?
- » What strategies can you use to clarify academic and behavioral expectations?
- » How might restorative practices reinforce engagement and foster a positive classroom culture?