

National School  
Improvement Tool

Domain 9:  
School-community  
partnerships

# Looking for ways to connect with your students and their families?

## Insight

Schools that achieve student engagement alongside academic achievement **build meaningful relationships** with students and their parents to:

- foster positive beliefs about learning; and
- support strong aspirations for every child.



All teachers can respond to the wellbeing needs of students and provide timely and differentiated responses to students who are experiencing barriers. It's not just the guidance officer and the deans of students; it's every teacher.

*(Assistant Regional Director)*

Youth engagement  
**PRACTICE  
INSIGHTS**

## 1. Do I?

- have high expectations for every student and share those high expectations with students and their parents?

## 2. Does my school?

- establish a connection point with every student including those most at risk of disengaging to create a sense of belonging for every student?

## 3. Do we?

- build meaningful connections with students and parents to promote the value of learning and help students feel positive about school
- promote positive teacher-student relationships to equip students with the support they need to take on challenging work, risk mistakes, and ask for help
- encourage student voice, agency and leadership in the way we teach and engage with our students
- help parents to understand the culture of school and the language of learning
- find ways to communicate clearly and consistently with parents about their child's learning including the parents of students experiencing multiple and complex barriers to their learning
- focus on student's strengths when communicating with parents, with conversations positive in both content and tone
- recognise the diversity of our students and their families and build connections that respect cultural identity and practice.

## 4. How can we build stronger connections with students and their families to help young people achieve their goals?

### Did you know?

Research has found that continued parent engagement throughout a student's schooling leads to greater academic, social and emotional outcomes. (See for example report by Australian Research Alliance for Children & Youth, 2012).



### Follow this QR code

Read more about how you can develop more meaningful connections with students and their families.



**Queensland  
Government**