

# Why student engagement matters

When young people are engaged at school they show interest and curiosity in their learning and feel a sense of belonging within their school community.

## What you do today matters tomorrow

What we do in our schools has a great impact on the future wellbeing of young people.

We know that student disengagement can have far-reaching, lifelong consequences. It can contribute to a person earning lower wages and increase the likelihood of unemployment, incarceration and poverty.

What you do today can make all the difference to a young person tomorrow because being engaged at school helps put young people on a path to success in life.

## What the research tells us

While each school and student cohort is unique, research into effective practice undertaken in 60 Queensland state schools has identified a number of practices that underpin the academic achievement and meaningful engagement of every student. These practices align with the National School Improvement Tool and other recognised frameworks. The difference here is that these practices put engagement at the heart of professional practice.

The practices can be grouped into six themes.

## The six themes

1. building a culture and vision aimed at engaging and retaining every student, marked by high expectations, and rejecting deficit explanations for student outcomes
2. developing high-performing and expert teams where all staff work together to address engagement issues
3. using behavioural, cognitive and wellbeing indicators to track and respond to student needs
4. investing resources in ways that prioritise equitable student engagement and outcomes
5. creating quality learning environments in which students are engaged, challenged and feel safe to take risks
6. making meaningful connections among students, teachers and families to encourage student engagement and achievement.

Each of these themes aligns with one or a number of the National School Improvement Tool domains and is supported by a range of practices.

## The practices

Every school has the potential to deliver best practice when it comes to student engagement. Your school may already be using many of the practices that support the six themes or perhaps there are some practices you can add to your toolkit.

## The postcards

These postcards talk about the different practices that lead to student engagement and achievement. You and your school can use these practices to create a culture that prioritises the engagement and achievement of every student. The postcards can help you:

- reflect on your own practice
- discuss the practices with your colleagues
- prompt discussion among communities of practice at your school.



## Follow this QR code

Read more about how you can help all your students engage and succeed at school.