



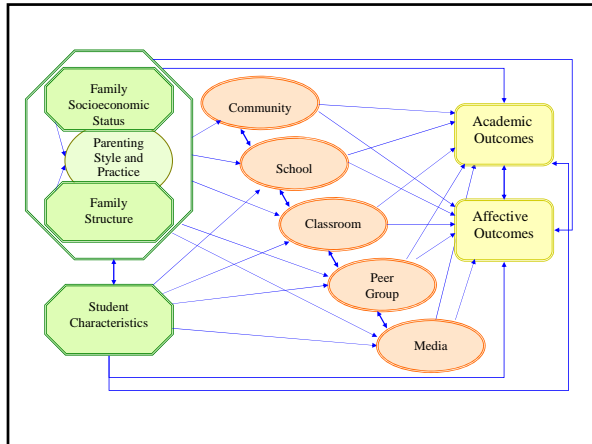
Increasing Student Engagement



Student engagement is a measure of the extent to which students identify with and value schooling outcomes, and participate in academic and non-academic activities.

Learning is a function of:
Quality Instruction
Appropriate Level of Instruction
Engagement
Time
Resources

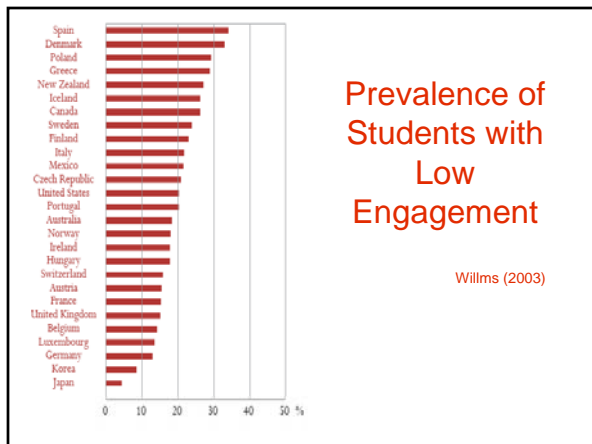


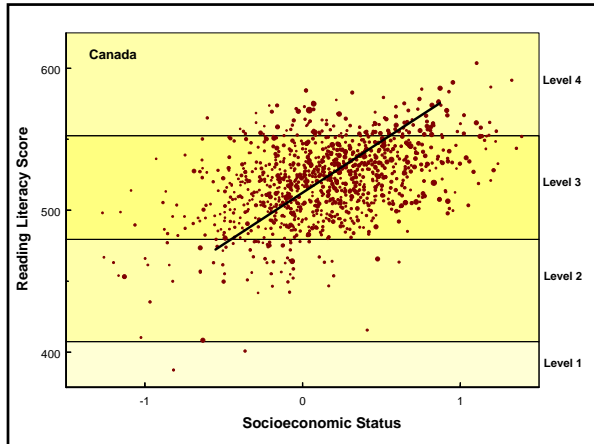


Engagement is related to academic achievement, but we consider it to be an important outcome in its own right.



It embodies a disposition towards learning, working with others, and functioning in a social institution.






Percentage of Variation in Schooling Outcomes

	Between Districts	Between Schools	Between Classes	Among Students Within Classes
Academic Outcomes				
Reading	2	5	7	86
Mathematics	<0.5	1	8	91
Science	<0.5	4	9	87
Writing	1	3	8	87
Affective Outcomes				
Self Esteem	<0.5	3	6	91
Sense of Belonging	<0.5	1	4	95
General Well-Being	<0.5	2	11	87
General Health	1	0	2	97

Source: New Brunswick Elementary School Study (Willms, 1996).

Student Engagement

- Sense of Belonging
- Value School Outcomes
- Aspirations
- Truancy Rate
- Participation in Sports
- Participation in Clubs
- Time on Homework
- Time on Leisure Reading
- Time on TV
- Time on Computers and Video Games





Sense of belonging at school pertains to students' "attachment to school, which has to do with feelings of being accepted and valued by their peers, and by others at their school."

Students with a poor sense of belonging at school are less likely to value schooling outcomes, and in the longer term are less likely to undertake further education.

Students' long-term aspirations and expectations are shaped by their perceptions of their ability, their experiences at home and at school, and the opportunities presented to them.

Concerned with:

- Available resources
- Structural features of school system
- Equity





The value placed on schooling outcomes is another key component of student

engagement. Many students believe that education will not benefit them personally and economically, while others feel that academic success will have a strong bearing on their future.

Participation in school activities is also a key element of student engagement. It is characterized by students being prepared for class, completing homework, attending lessons, and being involved in extra-curricular sports or hobby clubs.



27% of middle and secondary school students have a low sense of belonging at school
No differences between boys and girls
Socioeconomic Status is a protective factor (odds-ratio = 0.92)
The prevalence of low sense of belonging increases with grade level (odds-ratio = 1.05)



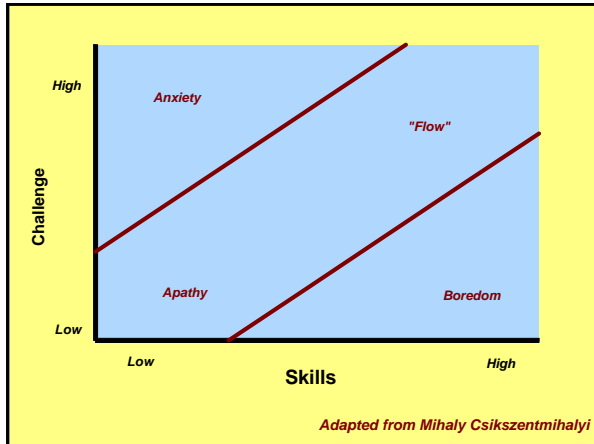
Academic and Intellectual Engagement ...
entails a serious psychological investment
using higher order skills (beyond Remember) to:

- Understand: interpret, classify, summarize
- Apply: execute, implement
- Analyze: organize, differentiate
- Evaluate: check, critique, hypothesize
- Create: plan, produce, generate

(Lorin Anderson & David Krathwohl)

to increase understanding, solve complex problems, or construct new knowledge.





In the long run, engagement may be more important than academic achievement in determining students' economic success and their health and well-being.



Moreover, student engagement can be affected by parents and teachers, and shaped by school policy and practice.

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