

Examples of the Focus on Intrinsic Motivation in the Six Learning Supports Arenas

Some examples of how a focus on intrinsic motivation in the six arenas promotes student and staff feelings of competence, self-determination, and positive relationships with significant others are highlighted below:

1. Classroom focused interventions to enable and re-engage students in classroom learning

By opening the classroom door to bring in available supports (e.g., student support staff, resource teachers, volunteers), teachers are enabled to enhance options and facilitate student choice and decision making in ways that increase the intrinsic motivation of all involved.

2. Crisis assistance and prevention

School-focused crisis teams can take proactive leadership in developing prevention programs to avoid or mitigate crises by enhancing protective buffers and student intrinsic motivation for preventing interpersonal and human relationship problems.

3. Support for transitions

Welcoming and ongoing social support for students, families, and staff new to the school provide both a motivational and a capacity building foundation for developing positive working relationships and a positive school climate.

4. Home involvement and engagement in schooling

Expanding the nature and scope of interventions and enhancing communication mechanisms for outreaching in ways that connect with the variety of motivational differences manifested by parents and other student caretakers enables development of intrinsically motivated school-home working relationships.

5. Community outreach for involvement and support

Weaving together school and community efforts to enhance the range of options and choices for students, both in school and in the community, can better address barriers to learning, promote child and youth development, and establish a sense of community that supports learning and focuses on hope for the future (higher ed/career choices).

6. Student and family assistance

Providing personalized support as soon as a need is recognized and doing so in the least disruptive ways minimizes threats to intrinsic motivation and when implemented with a shared and mutually respectful problem-solving approach can enhance intrinsic motivation and the sense of competence and positive relationship among all involved.

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