

Strategies for Creating a Supportive School Climate

Engagement addresses teacher, student, and whole-school connectedness, as well as parental participation, academic involvement, and the presence of a culture of equity.

My thoughts:

- Model the behavior you hope to see in others
- Build relationships with teachers, students and parents
- Be available and listen to teachers, students and parents
- Be positive and have fun (Community Spirit)
- Facilitate connections among teachers
- Help students feel connected to each other
- Empower teachers, students and parents
- Identify clubs or teams for students to join or start
- Welcome parents into the school
- Demonstrate that you value learning and teaching

Safety refers to the protection of the entire school community from violence and crime in order to establish a learning environment in which students are focused, engaged, and ready to learn.

My thoughts:

- Intervene in difficult situations
- Make a safe, bully-free culture the “norm”
- Review, revise and implement safety measures/plans
- Use data to reduce incidents
- Combine reasonable physical security with psychological safety
- Encourage all stakeholders to share safety concerns
- Provide for anonymous reporting of incidents and threats of harm to self or others
- Establish constructive working relationship with local police and other first responders

Environment is defined by its facilities, classrooms, student supports, and disciplinary policies. Schools perceived as safe are generally well cared for and aesthetically pleasing, and positive interactions between staff and students are observable.

My thoughts:

- Help to keep the school clean and well-maintained
- Hallways and classrooms are decorated; colorful and vibrant
- Ensure the effective use of student support services
- Improve access to school-based mental health services
- Implement multi-tiered systems of support
- Employ effective, positive school discipline
- Examine your own beliefs regarding stereotypes
- Treat students and teachers fairly
- Establish a culture of respect for differences
- Promote shared leadership of the school