Engagement

Division for Special Education Services and Supports
Webinar Series Supporting Students with the Most Significant
Cognitive Disabilities

Engaged?

The Breakfast Club - Sleeping scene - YouTube

[Kid Caught Sleeping in Class - Bing video](#)

Richard Woods, Georgia's School Superintendent | **Georgia Department of Education** | *Educating Georgia's Future*
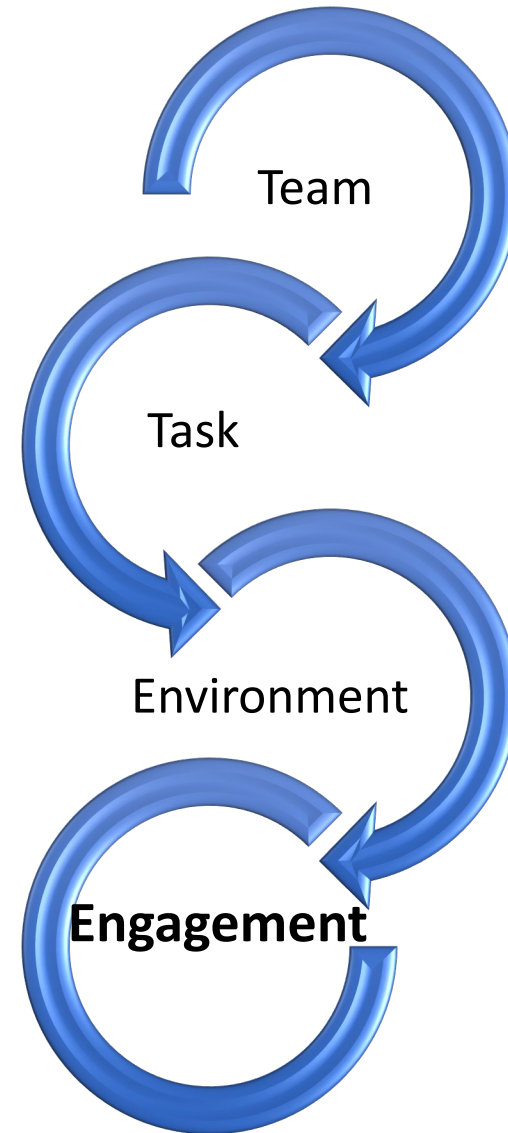
The Power of Relationships in Schools - Bing video

What is Engagement and Why is it Important

When students display high levels of behavioral, emotional, and cognitive engagement, they are more likely to

- Excel academically

- Form a **stronger sense of connection with their school**

- Have a more positive sense of social-emotional well-being
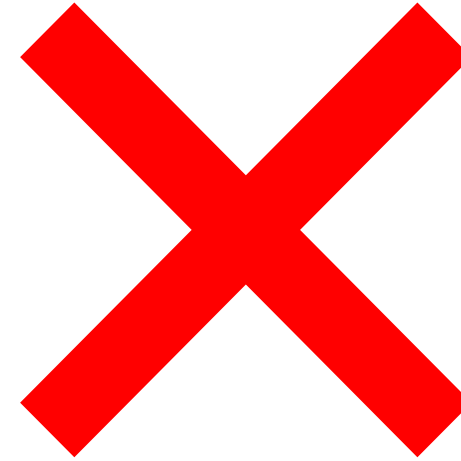
Three Important Components of Engagement

Team

Task

Environment

Engagement

Task/Activity Check Lists

Task(s)	Answer (circle)	Comments
Age appropriate	Yes/No	
Novel and creative	Yes/No	
Using multi-sensory approach	Yes/No	
Provides real experiences	Yes/No	
Arouse curiosity	Yes/No	
Activate prior knowledge and experiences	Yes/No	
Encourages collaboration	Yes/No	
Too much waiting time	Yes/No	
Meaningful and useful to the student's success	Yes/No	

OR

Westdale Special Education Class - YouTube

Team Check Lists

People Working with the Student	Answer (circle)	Comments
Positive attitude for student's success	Yes/No	
Believes that every student can learn	Yes/No	
Knows the student's profile (likes/dislikes, challenges, family, IEP goals/accommodations/services, schedule)	Yes/No	
Able to deliver instruction that is specific to the individual student	Yes/No	
Allows and encourages choice making	Yes/No	
Has high expectations for self	Yes/No	
Encourages student success	Yes/No	
Promotes appropriate interaction	Yes/No	

Environment Check Lists

Environment	Answer (Circle)	Comments
Safe	Yes/No	
Cluttered/Disorganized	Yes/No	
Distractions (visual and/or auditory)	Yes/No	
Different lighting options	Yes/No	
Promotes ease of transition	Yes/No	
Appropriate room for play, movement, work, meaningful breaktime	Yes/No	
Materials are easily accessible	Yes/No	
Promotes positive behavior	Yes/No	
Schedules (classroom and individual student)	Yes/No	
Classroom rules/norms effectively communicated	Yes/No	

Engagement Tips to Remember

- Clarify your expectations (often)
- Allow for mistakes
- Give specific, positive feedback
- Connect learning to the real world/students' lives
- Refer to your students' interests
- Avoid "down time" rather, promote meaningful breaks
- Give students choices
- Utilize technology
- Make lessons interactive