Community of Practice: Sharing Student Engagement Tools and Strategies

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Workshop Goals

- Share practices that lead to deep student engagement
- Vision a new approaches and strategies to implement in your program
- Build supportive connections among peers
Agenda

- Review the themes of the Virtual Summer Training
- Journal and breakout rooms on student engagement strategies you currently use.
- Journal and breakout rooms on new practices you want to implement and sharing about areas of challenge around student engagement
- Contact info form and feedback survey
Student Engagement 101

**Academic**: Ensuring that students have all the information and tools they need helps to facilitate engagement with the content you are teaching.

**Intellectual**: Activating students' curiosity is foundational to student engagement. Students come to the classroom with their backgrounds, experiences, and interests, and they may not all connect to the material in the same way.

**Social-Emotional**: For students to engage academically and intellectually, they need to establish the necessary trust with their teachers and peers.
When Things Get Off Track

Explored ways educators can respond when unproductive behaviors arise.

Behaviors communicate needs.

Our response to unproductive behaviors should always maintain the respect and integrity of the relationship and should always be for: collaboration, not compliance; development, not punishment; purpose, not power.

Example: co-creating parameters and agreements for participating.
Making Academic Standards Engaging

Explored approaches for aligning gardening and cooking experiences with Common Core Standards and Next Generation Science Standards.

Main take-aways:
- Make sure to understand the standard
- Brainstorm gardening and cooking activities that relate to the standard
- Design student engagement so that they practice the core competencies in the standard through engaging in cooking or gardening activities.

Example: read and interpret the directions of seed packets.
Orienting Instruction to Support Social-Emotional Learning

Explored five areas of Social-Emotional Learning: Self-Awareness, Self-Management, Social Awareness, Relationship Skills, Responsible decision making.

Strategies explored included:

- Frequent checkins
- Encourage brave tasting
- Building empathy through learning about workers in the food system and then share what they learned through a first-person story
- Acknowledging when students practice helpfulness
Encouraging Curious Learners in the Kitchen and Garden

Explored ways that educators can foster curiosity and interest among their students through strategies that:

- Encouraging critical thinking through structured thinking routines
  - Example: Think-Pair-Shares
- Prompt questions and questioning
  - The value of open-ended questions
- Promote sensory observations
  - Opportunities for students to engage multiple senses and then build awareness about their experience (e.g. through sensory language).
Journal Prompt #1

What are practices you currently do that lead to deep student engagement?
Journal Prompt #2

What’s a new strategy, activity, or lesson that you are interested in implementing in your program?

What’s an area of student engagement you have questions about or feel challenged in?
Thank you!