



# Dynamic Duo: The Connection Between the Learning Environment & Student Engagement

*Facilitated by Dr. Chris White and Valerie Ward, CMU*



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“The songwriting process is like planting a seed; every chord, every lyric, every note nurtures its growth until it blossoms into a masterpiece.”



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## Five Key Areas

- Learning Environment
- Cognitive Challenge
- Student Engagement
- Researched-based Instructional Strategies
- Assessment and Adjustment of Instruction

Learning Environment		
Approaching Expectations	Meets Expectations	Exceeds Expectations
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher has some established classroom management structures but exhibits inconsistent control of the classroom environment.	<input type="checkbox"/> Teacher has established many <b>classroom management structures</b> and exhibits consistent control of the classroom environment.	<input type="checkbox"/> Teacher has implemented highly effective classroom management structures which systematically demonstrate high expectations and scholarly behavior as the norm.
Teacher and students partially demonstrate mutual respect and rapport, yet some negativity is evident.	<input type="checkbox"/> Teacher and students consistently demonstrate mutual <b>respect</b> and <b>rapport</b> which conveys a sense of community.	<input type="checkbox"/> Teacher and students constantly demonstrate mutual respect and rapport which conveys a sense of safety and community.
Student behaviors are somewhat appropriate, but some disruptions occur to instruction and learning.	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Student behaviors</b> are appropriate with limited to no disruption to instruction and learning.	<input type="checkbox"/> Student behaviors are consistently appropriate with no disruption to instruction and learning.
Teacher utilizes limited or inconsistent accountability measures for behavior.	<input type="checkbox"/> If needed, the teacher utilizes consistent <b>accountability measures</b> for behavior.	<input type="checkbox"/> If needed, the teacher utilizes strategic and seamless accountability measures for behavior that do not disrupt the flow of the lesson.
Teacher utilizes time somewhat appropriately (e.g., some instructional time is lost).	<input type="checkbox"/> Teacher consistently <b>utilizes time</b> appropriately (e.g., minimal, if any, instructional time is lost).	<input type="checkbox"/> Teacher strategically utilizes instructional time with emphasis on rigorous pacing.
Teacher provides some instructional resources, but others are lacking.	<input type="checkbox"/> Teacher provides the appropriate <b>instructional resources</b> .	<input type="checkbox"/> Teacher provides ample and innovative instructional resources.



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# What were we curious about?

- » Was there a relationship between the CMU Educational Program Review (EPR) protocol observations and NWEA MAP growth and achievement?
- » Were there specific indicators or groups of indicators from the key areas that were more significant than others?
- » Does a higher rating on the EPR protocol having any mediating effect on the impact of socio-economic status?



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# Principal Component Analysis

»» Learning  
Environment

»» Antecedents to  
Student  
Engagement



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# Attributes of the Learning Environment

Accountability Measures

Classroom Management

Student Behaviors

Respect & Rapport

Use of Time

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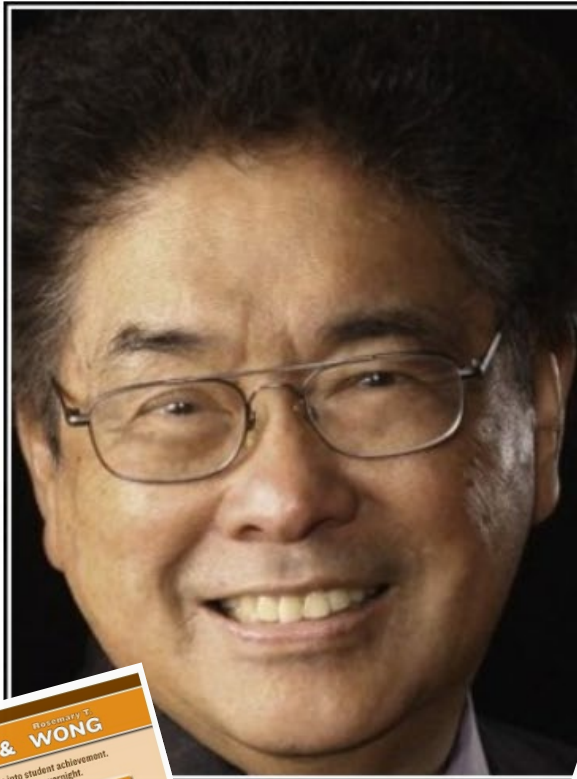
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# How can we create a positive learning environment?



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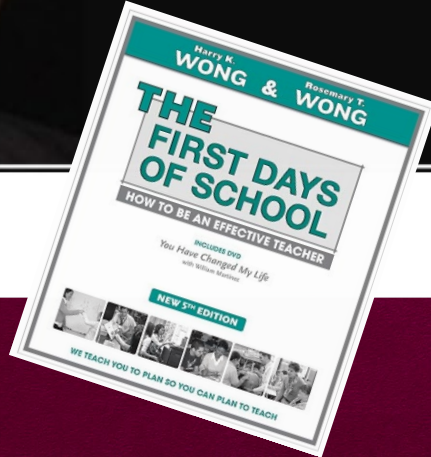
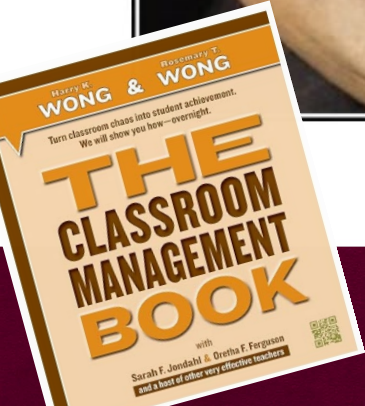




The most successful classes are those where the teacher has a clear idea of what is expected from the students and the students know what the teacher expects from them.

— Harry Wong —

AZ QUOTES



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# Read and Annotate the Classroom Management 101 Article

- ✓ 1) Develop an organized physical layout for the classroom.
- ✓ 2) Develop clear rules and routines.
- ✓ 3) Establish caring relationships with and among students.
- ✓ 4) Plan and implement engaging instruction.
- ✓ 5) Address discipline issues when they arise.

## Annotate with the following:

! = Something new or exciting

? = Something you are curious about or question

★ = Something that is a key take-away for you

**Stand Up/Hand Up/Pair Up**  
*Taller Person Shares First*

**Opening and  
Closing Meetings**

**Good News**

**Greetings**



# **RELATIONSHIPS**

**Affirmations**

**Teambuilding Activities /  
Class Motto/Mascot**

**Encouragement/Cheers**

Silent Reflection: Which of these might you want to focus on in the next few weeks?

# Beginning of Day/Class Procedures

The following procedures ensure an orderly start of the day:

1. Greeting students at the door
2. Orderly and quiet entry
3. Starting “Do Now” immediately
4. Turning in homework
5. Holding a “Morning Meeting” with Good News
6. Distributing materials
7. Having necessary materials out and ready for instruction.



# End of Day/Class Procedures

The following procedures ensure an orderly end of the day:



1. A process for leaving the classroom clean and organized

2. A process for students to pack up their own items

3. Closing Circle (5-10 min.) which might include:

- A review/reflection of the main point(s) of the lesson/day
- Celebration of accomplishments and areas to grow
- Homework reminders
- A preview of what will be taught tomorrow
- Important announcements
- Launch / Goodbye

Think-Pair-Share: Discuss your current structures for beginning and ending the day. What new ideas might you consider incorporating? *The person with bigger feet goes first.*



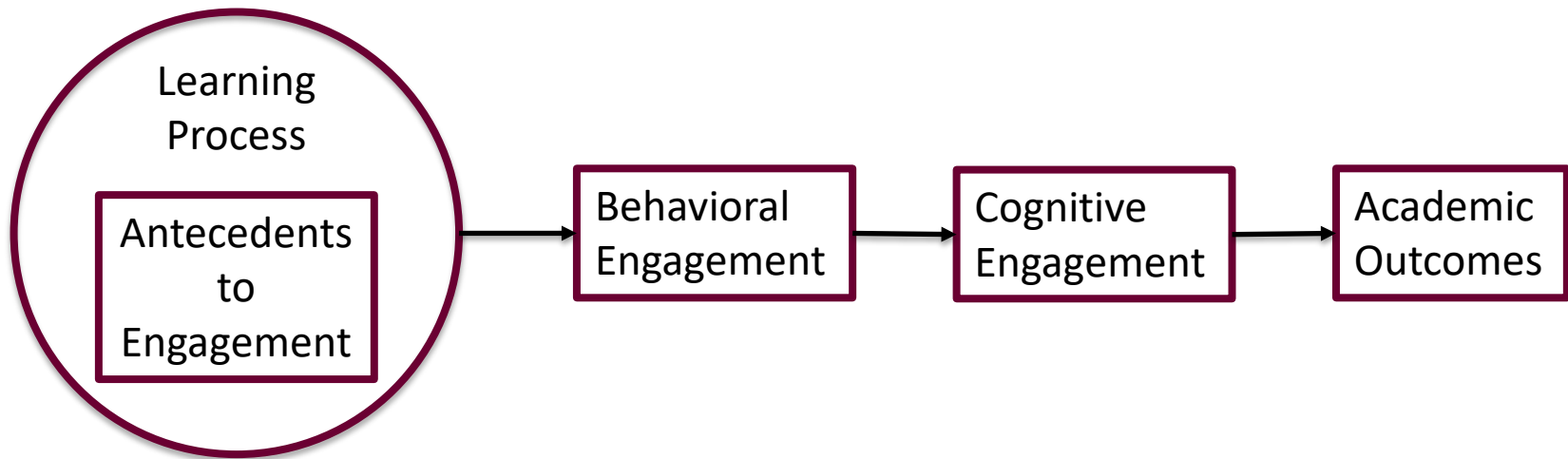
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# What is student engagement?



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# What do you mean by “antecedents” to student engagement?



Specific  
Instructional  
Strategies



Interactive  
Teaching with  
Active  
Student  
Responses  
and Feedback



Variety of  
Teaching  
Methods  
Matching  
Student  
Ability



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# Example “Antecedents” to Student Engagement

Rigorous  
Learning Tasks

Active  
Learning

Scaffolding

Academic  
Discussion

Differentiation,  
Intervention &  
Support

Academic  
Vocabulary



# Why is engagement important?

**Student engagement is strongly related to academic growth.**

**The amount of time a student spends academically engaged is a strong predictor of academic achievement.**

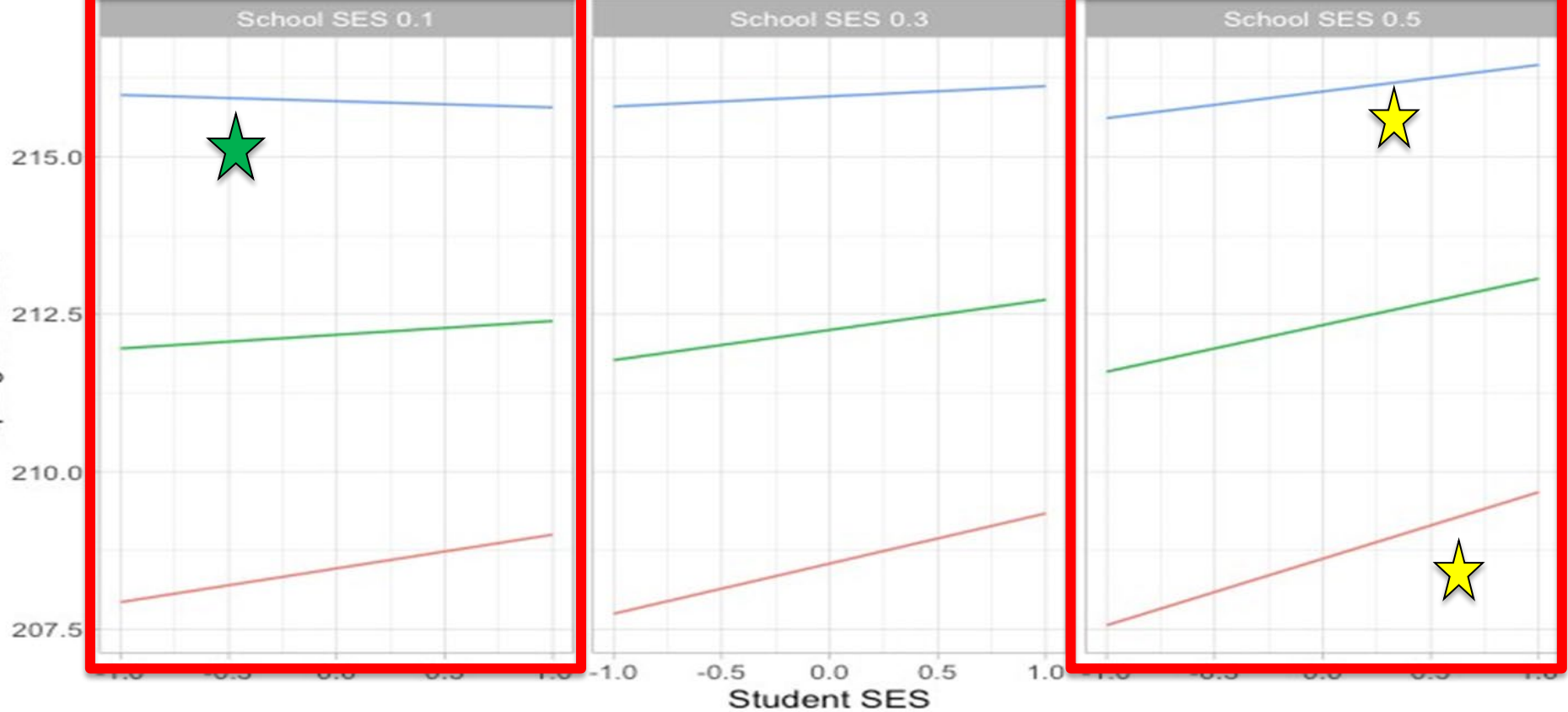




# Growth Model

Controls for Fall Score

Spring RIT Score



Antecedent to Student Engagement — 2 — 3 — 4

**What are some specific examples of the antecedents to student engagement that teachers should try?**



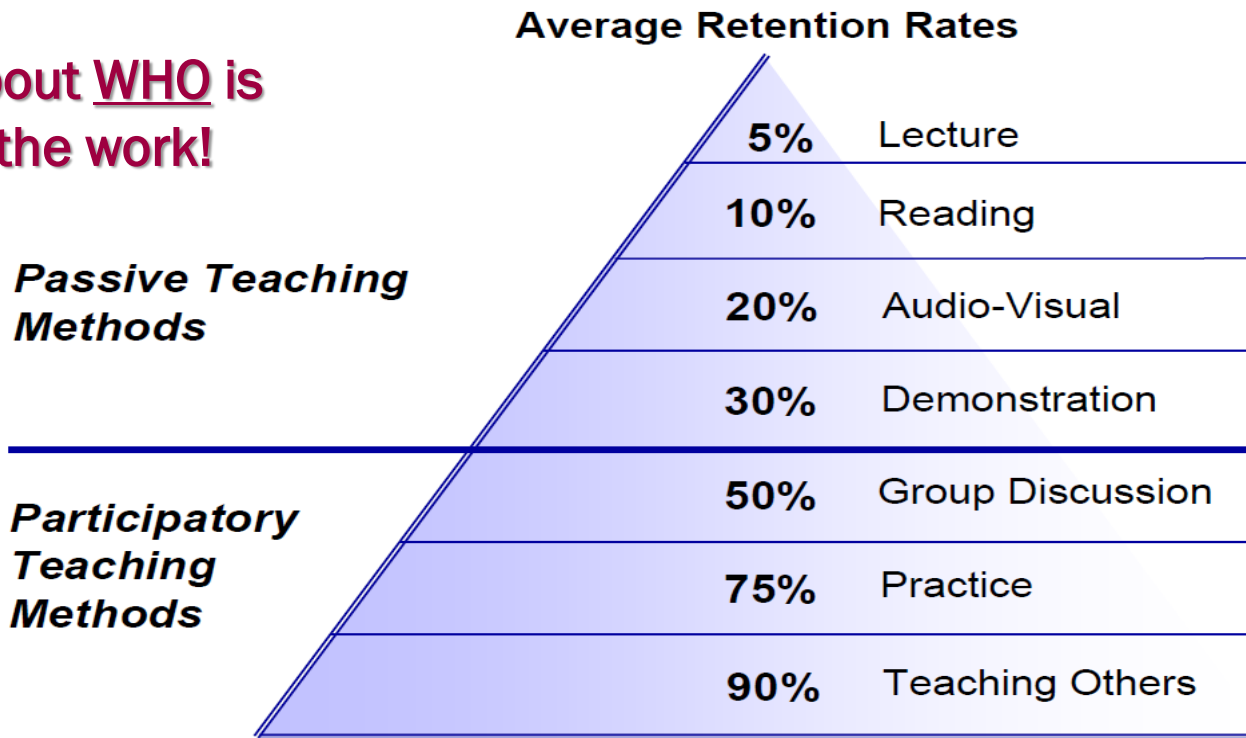
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# Engagement Continuum

<b>Disengaged</b> (complete disinterest and lack of motivation)	<b>Compliant</b> (willingness to perform at required level of behavior and cognition)	<b>Engaged</b> (active learning with cognitive challenge and piqued interest)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Sleeping</li><li>• Reading*</li><li>• Doing other work</li><li>• Writing notes*</li><li>• Talking*</li><li>• Playing around</li><li>• Getting out of seat*</li><li>• Using technology*</li></ul> <p><i>*When not intentional for purpose of the lesson</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Doing task required by teacher</li><li>• Sitting quietly</li><li>• Facing forward</li><li>• Looking at teacher</li><li>• Answering questions</li><li>• Nodding</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Asking questions</li><li>• Solving problems</li><li>• Critically thinking</li><li>• Discussing with peers</li><li>• Researching/Exploring</li><li>• Applying/Connecting</li><li>• Analytically reasoning</li><li>• Generating and testing hypothesis</li><li>• Constructing/Creating</li><li>• Critiquing</li><li>• Responding in writing</li><li>• Debating</li></ul>

# The Learning Pyramid\*

Think about WHO is  
doing the work!

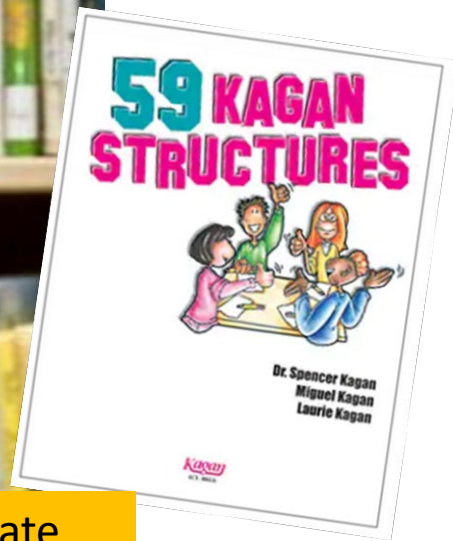


\*Adapted from National Training Laboratories. Bethel, Maine



# Structured Conversations with Accountability

Think-Pair-Share  
Write-Pair-Share  
Stand Up, Hand Up, Pair Up  
Give One/Get One  
Scholarly Stroll or Walk-n-Talk  
Twins/3 Musketeers  
4 Corners



Discussion: How often and in which ways to you incorporate structured conversations with accountability?

# Questions?



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**Dr. Christopher White**

**Director of Assessment & Evaluation  
CMU Center for Charter Schools**

[white2ca@cmich.edu](mailto:white2ca@cmich.edu)



**Valerie Ward**

**School Performance Manager  
CMU Center for Charter Schools**

[Vward@thecenterforcharters.org](mailto:Vward@thecenterforcharters.org)



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"A well prepared  
and engaging  
teacher is a  
catalyst...a spark  
that creates the  
desire to learn in  
our students."

--Robert John Meehan