

Student Community Building

We believe belonging is the cornerstone of social-emotional and academic development. Use the following questions as a starting point for intentional community building driven by student agency, interest, and choice. This document is intended to be used with K-12 students; some questions may need to be adapted/translated/scaffolded.

For a comprehensive approach to community building, complete our [observation form](#) for your school with this student in mind and build an action plan for creating a community for this student.

Introductions

- How do you want to be referred to /called on in class?
 - Are there specific words or phrases that you do not want used to refer to you?
- What do you want your classmates and teachers to know about you?
- Do you like to work alone or with other people?

Interests

- How do you like to spend your free time (with friends, doing activities, etc.)?
- Do you prefer to spend time by yourself, with a few people, or with a large group?
- What activities or interests do you like to share with new friends?

Friendship

- How do you describe friendship?
- What do you look for in a friend?
- How do you like to make friends?

Belonging

- What makes you feel like you belong somewhere?
- How can your classmates and teachers help you feel like you belong?
- How do you want to build trusting relationships with classmates? Teachers? The school?

Active Belonging Building

Would you be open to		
A student guide to show you around	A cafeteria or lunch/recess buddy	Joining a group/team/club
A) For one day B) For the first week of school C) For the first month of school	A) For one day B) For the first week of school C) For the first month of school	A) An interest club B) An academic club C) An affinity group D) An alliance group E) An athletic group

Proactive Engagement & Boundaries

- What fears, if any, do you have about making friends/belonging?
- What is the best way for me to check in on how you are feeling?
- What makes you feel uncomfortable, and how do you like to communicate when you are uncomfortable, sad, or overwhelmed?

Related Teaching Activities:

- [Elementary School Identity Lesson](#)
- [What Aspects of Our Identities Do We Show to Others?](#)
- [What is your Superpower?](#)