# What does student apathy look like?

Knowing what apathy looks like in the classroom and some of the contributing factors can help schools connect with and support students in meaningful ways.



#### Minimal effort

Lack of motivation Reduced participation

Unemotional response to both positive and negative events

Frequent absenteeism

#### 47%

of teachers say that their students showing little to no interest in learning is a major problem in their classroom.

Pew Research Center, November 2023

#### 93%

of school health workers say they've seen an increase in students with anxiety since 2019.

EdWeek Research Center survey, March 2023

#### Potential underlying factors Depression Lack of sleep

## Undiagnosed learning challenges Trauma Mental health conditions

#### Drug or alcohol abuse Nutrition

Underlying family or personal issues

Troubled peer relationships Academic rigor is too much or too little

By understanding the root causes of apathy, educators can provide targeted support and interventions to address individual student needs.

# Ways to help students feel connected in the classroom.

Connect with students as individuals. When students feel supported and have a sense of belonging, they are more likely to actively engage.





Incorporate students' interests into class discussions and activities so the lessons feel relevant. Allow students to create videos, podcasts, or other artistic interpretations to encourage imagination and novelty in the learning process.



Nurturing a growth mindset can help students believe that they can overcome academic and other obstacles with effort and perseverance.



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Be a positive role model in the classroom. Saying "please," "thank you," and "I see your hard work" can be powerful and contagious.



Allow students to have a voice and a choice. Let them pick books or topics for an assignment or have them develop the class behavior rules during the first weeks of school.



Give students responsibilities, like greeting their peers in the morning. This helps them feel valued, active, and fosters an opportunity to interact and help others.

## EducationWeek.