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## Engaging All Students:

Meeting the needs of our most at Risk  
Students

Indiana Youth  
Initiative

December 2011

10:45-12:00

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This session will cover specific strategies, techniques, and practices to engage our most compromised youth. Special attention will be given to engaging students at multiple levels, focusing on structures, processes, and services customized to meet students' needs. Participants will leave the session with tools that they can immediately implement in their school settings

Engaging All Students

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Our Time Together Today  
Will Be Successful If...



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“The wealth of a school and the community  
can be measured in its ability to educate  
ALL its children!”



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Who Am I?



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Who is at risk? EVERY CHILD



## The Reality

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- From birth to age 18
- 12 and ½ years of school
- 180 day school year
- 7 hour school day
- Perfect attendance



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Engaging Youth Is All About  
The Adult Behaviors



Engaging All Students

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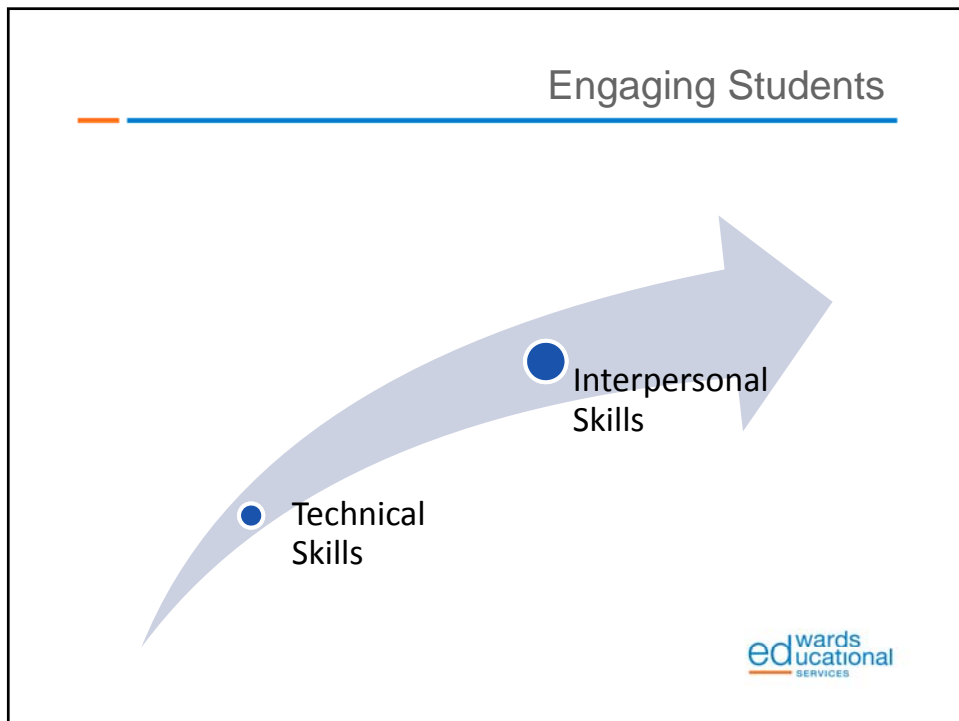
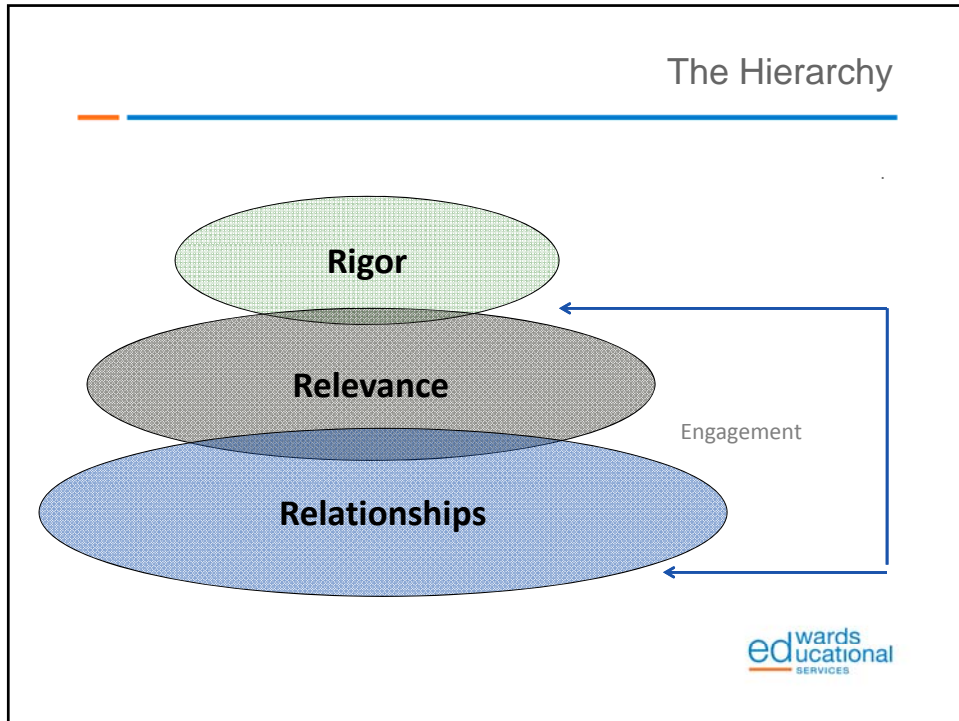
## Citizens, Not Tourists In Our Schools



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We need to get schools ready  
for kids, not kids ready for  
school





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$$E + R = O$$

Engaging All Students

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Adopt A Customer  
Focus

## Student Engagement

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### Within Our Power

“More than any other thing, good and engaging instruction is our best hope to unleash the learning potential of our students in this time of great educational change. If this change is to occur, it must be because of the engagement with students, not in spite of them.”

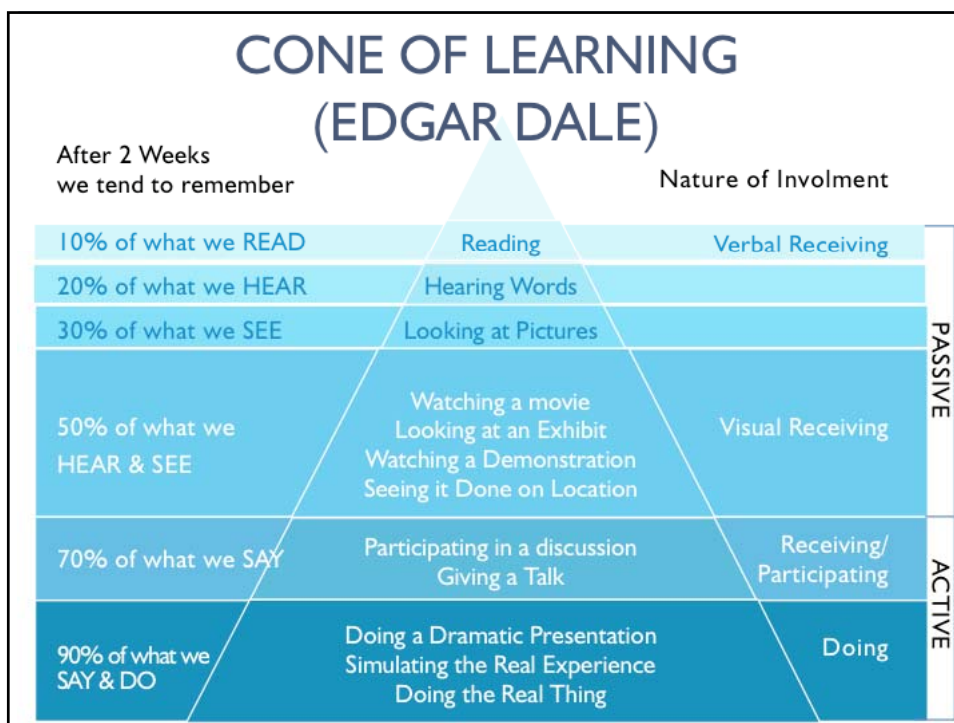
Source: *Hannel and Hannel, 2005*



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## Strength Based Verses Deficit Based Approach





## Student Engagement


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### A Description

“Student engagement can be described as the student’s relationship with the school community: the people (adults and peers), the structures (rules, facilities, schedules), the curriculum and content, the pedagogy, and the opportunities (curricular, co-curricular, and extracurricular)”

“How engaged a student is in school, by this definition, depends on the “quality, depth, and breadth of the student’s relationship with these various aspects of the life and work of the school”

Source: Yazzie-Mintz, 2006



## Engaging All Students

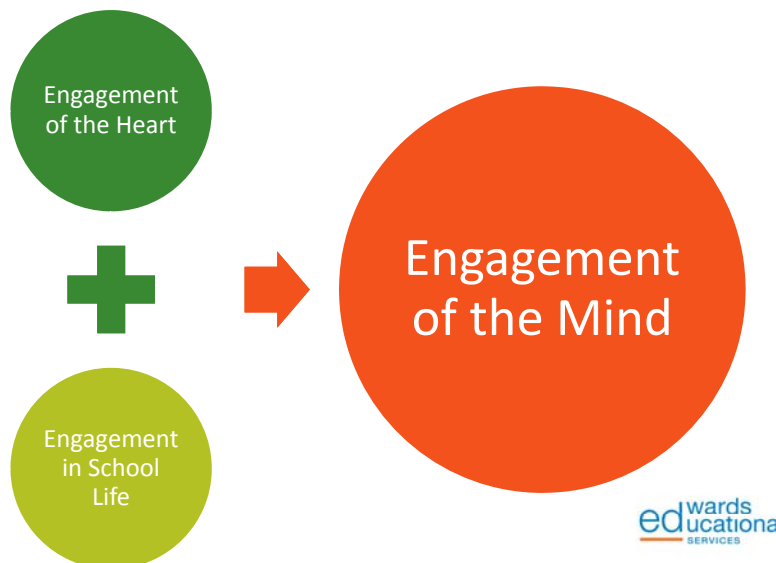
### Causes and Consequences of Disengagement

- They do not feel connected to staff and peers
- Their self-confidence and efficacy are low
- They fail repeatedly at task that are too difficult or poorly structured
- Learning opportunities are not relevant or interesting
- Work, tasks, and activities fail to challenge them appropriately
- They do not feel safe
- They do not feel valued, respected or listened to
- They feel they do not have the ability to control or choose
- The curriculum delivery does not engage them in ways that complement how they learn

Source: *Barnes and Bramley, 2008*



### Types of and Process for Student Engagement



## Student Engagement

- Clustering these relationships into groups provides a richer look at student engagement. The work students do (class work, activities, homework, participation) and the way they approach their work (level of motivation, effort, academic strategies) can be described as “cognitive/intellectual/academic engagement,” (***engagement of the mind***).
- Student connections with adults and peers within the school, as well as their involvement in school-related activities can be classified as “social/behavioral/participatory engagement,” or ***engagement in school life***, while students’ beliefs about their own capabilities as well as their feelings about how connected they are to the school and those in it can be labeled “emotional engagement” or ***engagement of the heart*** (Yazzie-Mintz, 2006). Educators typically focus most heavily (even exclusively) on *engagement of the mind*, which directly relates to academic achievement, supporting and encouraging student engagement in all three areas benefits students far greater than any area in isolation.



## Engaging All Students

### Engagement in School Life and Engagement of the Heart

#### ***Engagement in School Life:***

- Types of Engagement:
  - social/behavioral/participatory
- Actions of Student Engagement:
  - relationships with peers, teachers, staff; participation in extra-curricular activities

#### ***Engagement of the Heart:***

- Types of Engagement:
  - emotional/psychological
- Actions of Engagement:
  - Levels of attention, interest, effort, investment students expend in learning; belief in their abilities to succeed; demonstration of enthusiasm, optimism, curiosity; ability to face challenges and persist in the face of failure; coping strategies; self-efficacy



## Keys For Increasing Student Engagement

### Suggestions:

- Focus first and primarily on students' social and academic growth
- Emphasize community-building within your class
- Teach cooperative and team-work skills
- Talk less, listen and question more
- Value students' input, opinions, and abilities by using them
- Involve students at all levels of their learning, from planning through summative assessment
- Transform your role from teacher to coach
- Offer multiple opportunities for students to choose learning experiences based on interests
- Move away from all extrinsic motivators, including rewards, threats, punishments

Source: *Leachman and Victor, 2003*



## Keys For Increasing Student Engagement

- Involve students at all levels of their learning, from planning through summative assessment
- Transform your role from teacher to coach
- Offer multiple opportunities for students to choose learning experiences based on interests
- Move away from all extrinsic motivators, including rewards, threats, punishments
- Build off of a strength based perspective rather than a deficit based perspective

Source: *R. Edwards, 2011*



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What you don't address,  
you accept



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Engaging All Students

The Knowing-Doing  
Gap



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Engaging All Students: Create A Sense Of Urgency



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Engaging All Students

Questions/Comments





# Thank You

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