

Student-Teacher Partnerships

Webinar 2 of 4 in VicSRC's Teach the Teacher series

Supported by the Victorian Department of Education and Training

Student-Teacher Partnerships: Key Advice

"Treating a student as an equal is the first step to them acting as one."

Belle, VicSRC Student Executive Advisory Committee member

- Use accessible, plain language and unpack jargon
- Provide extra time for discussion, questions and understanding new concepts
- Ask leading questions to help students consider things they may have missed, rather than dominating discussion with your voice

"We try to give our students as much information as we can. There is very little that staff know about that students don't...the more students know the more empowered they are to make decisions."

Nina, VicSRC Executive Officer

Benefits

Risk factors for student disengagement:

- Family and community
- Personal
- School-related such as **negative relationships with teachers** or peers, unsupportive school culture...lack of student participation in decision making.

DET's 'Identify students at risk of disengaging'

Teachers benefit, too... a teacher's relationship with students was the best predictor of how much the teacher experienced joy versus anxiety in class.

European Journal of Psychology of Education

“Convenient student voice happens whenever adults know who is going to speak, what is going to be said, where it’s going to be shared, when it’s going to happen, and what the outcomes are going to be. Adults might not have written the script, but what’s going to be said is no surprise to them ...

Inconvenient student voice happens when students express themselves in ways that aren’t predictable. They share ideas, shout out thoughts, take action, reflect harshly, or critique severely. They write, draw, graffiti, paint, play, sing, protest, research, build, deconstruct, rebuild, examine, and do things that adults don’t know, understand, approve of, or otherwise predict...”

Adam Fletcher, SoundOut

Learning from Remote Learning

Support and progress student agency as a top priority within schools and within the education system.

Ensure every student has access to devices and internet to support their learning at school and at home.

Have online platforms as part of every day learning including detailed lesson plans and easier communication between teachers, students and parents/carers.

Make sure mental health is just as important as academic success and include regular wellbeing classes for all students.

Schools and timetables should be more flexible about how students learn including shorter school days and longer breaks between classes to rest and refocus.

Create a comfortable, safe and welcoming space for every single student.