



Presenting...



**Note to Reader:** *The reopening of schools this fall will be a challenge that may continue throughout the entire school year. Therefore, here are 10 evidenced-based strategies to help guide you through this stage. Review these strategies and adjust them for your school or schools. Then share them with your principals and/or site leaders. They will help accelerate learning, build student motivation, and create a positive school environment.*

*Source Google doc can be downloaded at:*

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1e78\\_-Z02Gir2JK\\_BqTMwFM1p3Bf2eiDHOaevOuOBzrc/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1e78_-Z02Gir2JK_BqTMwFM1p3Bf2eiDHOaevOuOBzrc/edit?usp=sharing)

## Strategy 1: *Start with the whole child*

No matter how many times we say it, it's always true. Your students, peers, and administrators have all had the same pandemic-related challenges heaped on everyday challenges. Acknowledge these challenges and build trust. According to J. Best, “trust can be defined as the willingness or intention to make oneself vulnerable to the actions of others even with limited ability to influence these actions – and seen as a significant coordination mechanism in social cooperation and leadership” (Best, 2020). By sharing experiences and letting students tell their stories, you’ll increase your students’ productivity, engagement, and positivity.

## Strategy 2: *Reach out to your students’ families*

Ask parents and caregivers about their experience with learning in remote or hybrid situations. Taking time to develop trust with them will allow you to partner with them to enhance student learning and behavior. “Parent involvement in education is crucial. No matter their income or background, students with involved parents are more likely to have higher grades and test scores, attend school regularly, have better social skills, show improved behavior, and adapt well to school” <sup>1</sup>([Responsive Classroom](https://www.responsiveclassroom.org/what-research-says-about-parent-involvement/), 2006).

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<sup>1</sup> Responsive Classroom. (2006). “What research says about parent involvement.”  
<https://www.responsiveclassroom.org/what-research-says-about-parent-involvement/>

## ***Strategy 3: Share an attitude of positivity***

Recognize with your students that a positive attitude will help them learn and thrive. Lang Chen, the lead researcher in a Stanford study of the relationship between math and positivity that: "Attitude is really important," said Chen, "Based on our data, the unique contribution of positive attitude to math achievement is as large as the contribution from IQ" <sup>2</sup>([J. Stillman](#), 2018)

## ***Strategy 4: Take time to find out all students' mastery of key reading and math topics***

Use evidence-based assessments to find out where your students' learning gaps are in reading and in math. Discover students' mastery levels for key topics versus where they should optimally be for their grade level.

***Pro-Tip:** Use our evidence-based assessments [ADAM](#) or [DORA](#) to granularly assess all your students.*

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<sup>2</sup> J. Stillman. (2018). "New Stanford Study: A positive attitude literally makes your brain work better."  
<https://www.inc.com/jessica-stillman/stanford-research-attitude-matters-as-much-as-iq-in-kids-success.html>

## ***Strategy 5: Use small groups to differentiate instruction and whole class activities to build community***

Place students into small groups to focus on key learning gaps and make sure that you also have plenty of whole-class activities that are project-based or experiential to build critical and creative thinking while you build community.

**Pro-Tip:** Use our evidence-based instruction [LGL Math Edge](#) or [LGL ELA Edge](#) for personalized online learning in reading and math.

## ***Strategy 6: Attend to your students' Social/Emotional Learning***

The CASEL Report on Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) reviewed 317 studies of over 300,000 K-8 students and found that Social-Emotional Learning programs were effective in reducing behavioral problems and stress across grades and for diverse students from urban, rural, and suburban areas. Moreover, SEL increased student achievement scores by 11 to 17 percent.<sup>3</sup>

If your school doesn't have a SEL program, check out this article in *The Journal*: [Free Social and Emotional Learning \(SEL\) Resources for Schools During the COVID-19 Outbreak](#).

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<sup>3</sup> Payton et.al. (2008). "The positive impact of social and emotional learning for kindergarten through 8th grade students: Executive Summary." CASEL.  
<https://www.casel.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/PDF-4-the-positive-impact-of-social-and-emotional-learning-for-kindergarten-to-eighth-grade-students-executive-summary.pdf>

## ***Strategy 7: Find simple ways to monitor your students' progress both academically and positivity***

Make sure to involve your students and their families. Use different kinds of formative assessment (writing, portfolio, quizzes, conversation) to know who is and who's not on track. This will let you adjust frequently and engage with your students and their parents and caregivers.

**Pro-Tip:** Use our evidence-based formative assessments [LGL's Formative Assessment Process](#) to monitor students and let our system update their instruction throughout the year. Also if using the LGL platform, turn on the student readiness-to-learn survey which asks a simple question before each student starts any activity, "How ready are you to learn?" Responses are on a scale of 1 to 5 and stored for the teacher to review over time.

## ***Strategy 8: Achieve equity by distributing positive feedback equally to every student***

According to A. Morin, praising students for effort and behavior "can turn around behavior challenges and improve students' attitudes about learning. Students who learn and think differently often receive negative feedback as a result of their struggles. That makes meaningful and appropriate praise even more important." Keep track of who you praise so that you give it equally to all students, and make sure you do it in a way that is comfortable for each student.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>4</sup>A. Morin. "The power of effective praise: A guide for teachers." Understood.org  
<https://www.understood.org/articles/en/the-power-of-effective-praise-a-guide-for-teachers>

Researchers from Brigham Young University, the University of Kansas, and Vanderbilt University have found that the higher the teachers' praise-to-reprimand ratio (PRR), the higher the students' on-task behavior percentage."<sup>5</sup>

**Pro-Tip:** Use either [LGL Math Edge](#) or [LGL ELA Edge](#) to give each student their own unique course in math or ELA. Each student gets to "Go for Gold" as they try to complete their own lessons at the gold level. At-risk and advanced students can all work side by side to gain badges and certificates. Universal design allows all students to excel with content that is accessible to each student.


## **Strategy 9: Celebrate progress with students and their families**

Who doesn't like to stop after a period of hard work and dedicated effort and celebrate? It will allow you to bring together the two most important ingredients for student success -- you and their parents or caregivers! "By rewarding effort and perseverance you yield a powerful motivational tool. Emphasizing that it's effort – not luck, good genes or other people – that spurs achievement teaches learners the value of hard work and encourages them to put the effort in."<sup>6</sup>

**Pro-Tip:** Let's Go Learn supports family engagement initiatives by having reports in Spanish and English as well as reports that anyone can understand. Reports don't use vague scores like 756 or 24%. Instead, they use grade-level scores that are easy to understand and turn into action.

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<sup>5</sup>A.Sorenson. (2020) "Praising students in the classroom has a big impact on their behavior." Brigham Young University.  
<https://news.byu.edu/intellect/praising-students-in-a-classroom-setting-has-big-impact-on-their-behavior>  
<sup>6</sup>M. Ankucic. (2019) "Celebrating student success has never been more important." 3P Learning.  
<https://www.3plearning.com/blog/celebrating-student-success/>



## ***Strategy 10: Create an atmosphere of happiness in your classroom***

Some of us have inherited an attitude that resilience is built from just effort and attitude. Research on joy and trust and happiness has begun to acknowledge their importance in student achievement. Note this research led by Christina Hinton in 2015: “Using both quantitative and qualitative measures, she found that from elementary school to high school, happiness is positively correlated with motivation and academic achievement. She also found that the culture of the school and the relationships that students form with their teachers and their peers play an influential role in their happiness.”<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>7</sup>V.Jones. (2015). “Because I’m happy.” Usable Knowledge.  
<https://www.gse.harvard.edu/news/uk/15/03/because-i%E2%80%99m-happy>