

Discussion Topics: A Sense of Belonging

After filling out individual questionnaires and examining the student questionnaires, staff members, teams, book groups, and other groups should come together to explore these topics of discussion.

1. Do the basic needs of students play an important role in decision making in our school?
2. How can we help our students feel a stronger sense of belonging in their classrooms and the school?
3. Do student perceptions differ from those of the school staff? If so, why?
4. How can we help poverty-level students and their families feel cared for and supported?
5. Do we do enough as a school to communicate and connect with parents?
6. Do we help parents know what they can do to help support school learning?
7. Do poverty-level parents feel like partners with the school?
8. How can we help poverty-level students develop strong relationships with one another as well as with more affluent students?
9. Do our students feel that our classrooms reflect a surrogate-family atmosphere?
10. How can we create a stronger surrogate-family atmosphere in our school?
11. Does the school have ample clubs, activities, and extracurriculars so that each student can find a place that relates to his or her needs, interests, and talents?
12. Do we do enough in our school to help students discover or enrich their interests and talents?
13. Do we have ample ways for students to think about and explore career opportunities?
14. Do we have ways for students and their families to begin considering specific career pathways?
15. How could we use social media and networking in a more effective manner in our school?