

KEY FEATURES OF YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

and the 4 Pillars of Health Promoting Schools (HPS)

Social and Physical Environments



Teaching and Learning

Partnerships and Services



Policy

[Four Pillars]

[Youth Engagement Features]

Social and Physical Environments



Physical and Psychological Safety

- Youth/adults work together to set group guidelines/values
- Physical/visual representations of diversity
- Community building activities to facilitate safety, belonging, connection
- Youth friendly hangouts, youth input on physical space
- Space configurations that accommodates different needs (collaboration, independence, being physical ...)
- Safe from threat of violence, harassment or harm
- Opportunities to have fun and explore interests
- Role modeling, supportive youth-adult relationships, integrated youth-adult activities
- Recognition of strengths, contributions, efforts and skills

Supportive Relationships

- Youth-Adult partnerships
- Shared leadership and accountability
- Caring and supportive adults
- Peer and adult role models and mentors
- Collaboration/Teamwork
- Opportunities to develop sustained, long-term relationships

Positive Social Norms

- Adults model positive behaviours
- Youth/adults work together to set group guidelines/values
- Exploration of diverse life situations, viewpoints, and cultures
- Peer support, leadership and collaboration

Opportunities to Belong

- Celebration of diversity
- Recognition for attempts (including failures), contributions, growth, and achievements
- Value for youth voice
- Community building activities

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Appropriate Structure

- Clear and consistent expectations and boundaries
- Adult oversight where necessary
- Developmentally and culturally appropriate activities
- Intentionally designed activities to meet program outcomes

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Opportunities for Skill Building

- Life-skills
- Challenging age-appropriate activities
- Teamwork, problem solving and interpersonal communication
- Experiential learning
- Internships/mentorships

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Support for Efficacy and Mattering

- Youth voice
- Activities focused outside the self
- Opportunities for meaningful contribution
- Youth and adults share leadership and accountability
- Youth-driven program goals and activities
- Recognition of diversity
- Absorbing/interesting activities and issues



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Integration of Family, School and Community Efforts

- Parent/caregiver/family involvement
- Community-based programs, resources and supports
- Youth opportunities to make meaningful community contributions (social justice, civic engagement, volunteering...)
- Youth voice and leadership in establishing school/community connections and collaboration
- School/community collaboration, leveraging of resources and joint efforts to address issues

