Nine Core Learning Conditions Measured by the Elevate Survey

Leverage student voice to improve the classroom conditions that catalyze learning

Research is clear: Students are more engaged and successful when they positively experience their learning environments. The **Elevate tool** from PERTS measures students' perceptions of their learning conditions and provides practical recommendations for research-based instructional strategies that support the unique needs of each class. These insights can be used to strengthen classroom practices that boost student engagement and learning for all students.

PERTS

UCHICAGO Consortium on School Research

perts.net/elevate

The Nine Learning Conditions

AFFIRMING IDENTITIES

Why it matters:

Students feel more connected to and motivated in classrooms that recognize and affirm their backgrounds and identities.

The Elevate survey questions:

Students respond on a six-point scale from "Strongly Disagree" to "Strongly Agree."

- This teacher makes sure different backgrounds and perspectives are valued and supported.
- I see positive examples of people like me in the things we learn in this class.

CLASSROOM COMMUNITY

Why it matters:

Students feel safe to engage and succeed in school when the classroom environment encourages a sense of community and fosters mutual support among classmates.

The Elevate survey questions:

Students respond on a six-point scale from "Strongly Disagree" to "Strongly Agree."

- In this class, we have lots of opportunities to interact with each other.
- This class is a welcoming place for everyone.
- I feel comfortable sharing my thoughts and opinions in this class.

FEEDBACK FOR GROWTH

Why it matters:

Students learn more effectively when their teachers set high expectations, recognize progress, and offer respectful, critical feedback to help students improve.

The Elevate survey questions:

Students respond on a six-point scale from "Strongly Disagree" to "Strongly Agree."

- This teacher lets me know they believe I can do well in this class.
- I get specific suggestions about how to improve my work.
- In this class, it is more important to try than to get things right the first time.

MEANINGFUL WORK

Why it matters:

Students are more motivated to learn when the work in class feels interesting and relevant to them.

The Elevate survey questions:

Students respond on a six-point scale from "Strongly Disagree" to "Strongly Agree."

- In this class, we do meaningful work, not busy work.
- What we learn in this class is connected to real life.
- This teacher makes what we're learning really interesting.

5 STUDENT VOICE

Why it matters:

Students take ownership of their learning and are more actively engaged in their schoolwork when they have choices, share their ideas, and feel heard.

The Elevate survey questions:

Students respond on a six-point scale from "Strongly Disagree" to "Strongly Agree."

- I have the opportunity to make choices about my work in this class.
- In this class, my ideas are taken seriously.
- This teacher responds to student suggestions to make our class better.

6 TEACHER CARING

Why it matters:

Students engage more deeply in their work when they feel their teacher likes and cares about them.

The Elevate survey questions:

Students respond on a six-point scale from "Strongly Disagree" to "Strongly Agree."

- I feel like this teacher is glad that I am in their class.
- This teacher cares about my life outside of school.
- This teacher treats me with respect.

7 LEARNING GOALS

Why it matters:

Students learn more effectively when it is clear to them what they are supposed to be learning and how it fits into the big ideas of that subject area.

The Elevate survey questions:

Students respond on a six-point scale from "Strongly Disagree" to "Strongly Agree."

- I know how the new things we're learning in this class connect to what we've learned before.
- This teacher helps me see my progress as I learn more.

8 SUPPORTIVE TEACHING

Why it matters:

Students learn more effectively and are more likely to feel valued when their teachers provide them with the instructional support to be successful.

The Elevate survey questions:

Students respond on a six-point scale from "Strongly Disagree" to "Strongly Agree."

- This teacher regularly checks in to make sure we understand the class material.
- This teacher explains things in different ways if we're confused.
- The teacher knows my strengths and weaknesses in this class.

9 WELL-ORGANIZED CLASS

Why it matters:

Students learn more effectively and are more motivated when the teacher develops routines and systems that contribute to the smooth functioning of the classroom.

The Elevate survey questions:

Students respond on a six-point scale from "Strongly Disagree" to "Strongly Agree."

- I feel like this class is organized to help me do well.
- This teacher does a good job keeping track of and returning our work.
- It's always clear what we're supposed to be doing in this class.

Countless studies show that these nine learning conditions influence students' motivation and also their ability to engage and learn. Review relevant research for each learning condition.

Understanding the Elevate Survey

The Elevate survey helps educators measure students' perceptions of classroom learning conditions to catalyze engagement and learning.

- The survey is designed for students in grades 6–12.
- Students choose from the following responses for each question: "Strongly Disagree," "Disagree," "Slightly Disagree," "Slightly Agree," "Agree," "Strongly Agree." Elevate reports show the percent of students who select "Strongly Agree" or "Agree," unless otherwise noted.
- By default, Elevate measures the first six of the nine learning conditions on the previous pages. PERTS encourages educators to measure the four to five learning conditions that best align with their own goals. Learn more about customizing the Elevate survey.
- Reports are available for individual classes and groups, such as grade level, subject area, school, and more. Explore the Elevate reports.

Practices to Improve Learning Conditions

The Elevate survey provides insights into how students perceive their classrooms' learning conditions. The nine core **Learning Conditions Practice Guides** offer educators recommendations for research-based instructional strategies to improve the learning conditions that the Elevate survey measures.

Explore the Practice Guides

Affirming Identities

Classroom Community

Feedback for Growth

Meaningful Work

Student Voice

Teacher Caring

Learning Goals

Supportive Teaching

Well-Organized Class

Improve the Student Experience... and Student Outcomes

The Elevate student survey is part of the Elevate program for teachers to measure and build classroom conditions that catalyze engagement and learning.

Learn more about Elevate and how the program leverages student feedback from the Elevate survey into actionable recommendations personalized for each educator.

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ABOUT ELDG

The Equitable Learning & Development Group (ELDG) at the UChicago Consortium on School Research conducts and translates academic research for an education audience. ELDG leverages social connectivity to contribute to the broad national movement to transform public schools. ELDG works with educational leaders, principals, teachers, and students, to identify how best to transform schools into joyous, intellectually challenging, and equitable learning environments for young people.

ABOUT PERTS

The Project for Education Research That Scales (PERTS) is an edtech nonprofit founded in 2010 at Stanford University. PERTS equips educators to create excellent and equitable learning conditions—conditions that foster engagement and accelerate learning. To do so, PERTS develops, tests, and scales the impact of evidence-based solutions in collaboration with hundreds of partner organizations. Learn more about our work, our team, and our partners at www.perts.net/about.

Research About Elevate Survey Learning Conditions

Numerous studies have shown that the nine core learning conditions below affect students' academic engagement and promote more equitable social, emotional, and/or academic outcomes. Below is relevant research for each learning condition.

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