

50 WAYS TEACHERS CAN SUPPORT STUDENTS.

The following are everyday activities that Teachers can do to support, empower, and involve students throughout the education system.

1. **Have a real conversation with a student.** Ask a student what they want to do find out how you can help make that happen.
2. **Actively support student-led action** however possible, including working with students out-of-school to accomplish their goals in education.
3. **Start a resource library** at your school that will inspire students to make change. Include books, websites, and organizations working on democracy, social change, school improvement, and youth power.
4. **Use active learning methods** to teach students about education, including service learning and constructivism. Build on what they already know.
5. **Develop a student-adult partnership program** in your school where students and educators can actually discuss school together.
6. **Create a student action center** in your school for students to become involved in changing their school and communities.
7. **Use participatory action research** in your classroom for students to take action in your school.
8. **Be an advocate for students at school meetings.** Make sure students are at the table whenever your school is making choices about students.
9. **Create classroom lesson plans that actively engage students** in critical thinking about education and action that changes schools.
10. **Make students concerns visible** in your school by posting them in your classroom and sharing them at meetings where adults are.

11. **Sponsor a letter with students** to the administration about student issues.
12. **Respect students as you do adults.** Don't expect more from students than you do adults and don't interpret for students what they can say for themselves.
13. **Co-design a lesson plan** with students about education reform and student involvement.
14. **Listen specifically to students whose voices are seldom heard in schools**, including students who are minority, low-income, have low grades, or don't interact with their peers.
15. **Host an activity for students and educators** to encourage student-adult partnerships.
16. **Engage students as classroom consultants**, interns, apprentices, and activities staff.
17. **Be consistent and clear about your expectations** of students in your classroom.
18. **Team up with students** to have a town meeting or school forum for everyone at your school.
19. **Identify and network with students** in your school who are concerned about their school.
20. **Connect with other adult allies** who want to involve students meaningfully, both in your school and others, and around the community.
21. **Include students in hiring adults** at your school, including staff, teachers, and administrators.
22. **Arrange resources for students** who would not otherwise be able to participate in school activities, including transportation, permission, and childcare.
23. **Support political candidates** for local, state, and national office who make listening and working with young people a priority.
24. **Arrange for a radio station** to sponsor a call-in show led by students that allows them to talk about their concerns about school.
Arrange a meeting with the principal for students to highlight the concerns and recommendations they have for school.
25. **Create a school-wide vision** for student involvement and voice that includes adults and students.

26. **Serve on an advisory board** for a student-led effort.
27. **Refuse to attend meetings where students are not invited** or where you cannot bring students with you.
28. **Be a real, active, and engaged friend** to students.
29. **Discourage unfair opportunities** for students based on academic performance, attendance, race, gender, etc.
30. **Create student-led experiences** in your classroom and throughout your school.
31. **Make your classroom a comfortable, safe, and affirming place** so students can “hang-out.”
32. **Help students create a newsletter**, or work with your school newspaper, to share students' concerns about their school and education.
33. **Help students create a listing of all opportunities** for their involvement in your school and community.
34. **Call for your school to have regular student evaluations** of themselves, teachers, administrators, and classes that influence performance evaluations, contracts, and hiring.
35. **Ask a student for help.** If they know about computers, ask them to assist you. If they understand diversity, ask them to teach you.
36. **Sponsor a support group for students** who face particular difficulties such as parents' divorce, violence, etc.
37. **Raise funds for a student-led organization** focusing on school issues.
38. **Actively support youth-led organizations** in your community, and encourage them to address education reform.
39. **Join (or form) with students a community task force** to address youth issues and coordinate responses in schools.
40. **Prepare students for multiple roles** in your school, including learner, teacher, and leader.

41. **Ask students' advice on school issues** you are wrestling with.
42. **Be an advocate for student involvement** and student/adult partnerships throughout the education system.
43. **Start an adult support group** to share ideas, concerns, and ways to listen better to students.
44. **Recognize student involvement.** Don't assume that just because someone is a student that they enjoy school. Help them appreciate it by giving class credit or through other meaningful recognition.
45. **Include students on committees** in professional education organizations.
46. **Hold students accountable for their mistakes and challenges.** Be honest and forthright with young people, and support their efforts to improve.
47. **Treat students as individuals.** One student cannot represent all students, and must learn how to represent themselves. Teach them.
48. **Speak to students with respect,** and avoid interrupting students.
49. **Involve students from the beginning of class** by having them create a list of their own expectations for the climate of the classroom through the end by having them conduct self-, class-, and teacher-evaluations.
50. **Become a system wide advocate** by continuing your movement towards Meaningful Student Involvement by calling for student voice throughout the education system, and by offering yourself and your classroom as a resource consistently.