



# Engaged students achieve excellence!

## What does student engagement mean?

Do your students come to school motivated to learn? Do they value school outcomes and have a sense of belonging? Are they challenged? All of these elements form part of student engagement, which are referred to as social, intellectual and institutional engagement. Student engagement is defined as “a disposition towards learning, working with others, and functioning in a social institution”<sup>1</sup>. It sits alongside academic achievement and student well-being as a key outcome of schooling.

- Uncover barriers to learning
- Create school improvement plans based on leading indicator data
- Monitor progress and initiatives year over year

## Why is understanding the level of engagement so important?

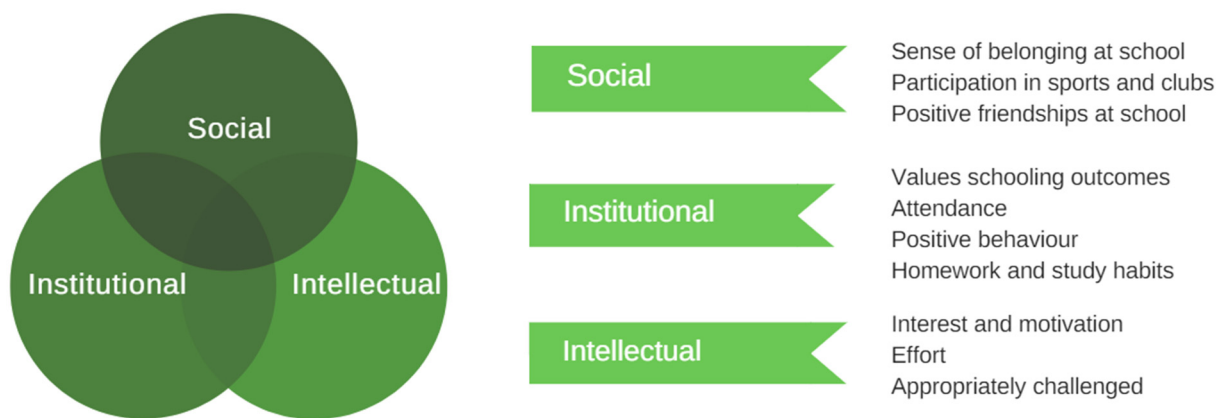
Engagement and learning go hand-in-hand. Signs of disengagement can develop in kindergarten and are an early indicator for intervention. A low sense of belonging at school, poor social behaviours, and a lack of interest in school work are early markers of school withdrawal. These issues can exacerbate over time, negatively affecting a students’ ability to develop the skills they need to succeed at school.

## How does Tell Them From Me provide the results you need to increase student engagement?

The Tell Them From Me (TTFM) Student Survey provides the data you need to monitor the key indicators of engagement at your school. In-depth reporting is available alongside a Student Engagement Report to help you identify evidence-based intervention and improvement strategies to increase the engagement and well-being of your students.

## Tell Them From Me (TTFM) Student Engagement Measures

The Tell Them From Me (TTFM) Student Survey includes ten measures of engagement, categorised as social, institutional and intellectual engagement.



### Social Engagement:

Do your students feel supported and have a sense of place at school?

Being actively involved in the life of the school, making friends and participating in extra-curricular activities is a long-standing approach to measuring student engagement.<sup>1</sup> Find out from your students if your school has an inclusive school climate that fosters a strong sense of belonging, such that all students feel accepted and respected.

- Aim to achieve high level of well-being in all students
- Provide students with the environment to develop a positive sense of belonging
- Embrace diversity, inclusion and equity in the classroom

### Institutional Engagement:

Do your students feel that what they are learning is related to long-term success?

Students who value schooling outcomes and meet the formal rules of schooling are considered institutionally engaged. Monitor your students' attendance, study habits and classroom behaviour to assess whether your students are simply complying with school expectations to achieve success or whether they are developing into engaged life-long learners.

### Intellectual Engagement:

Are your students engaged and motivated to learn?

Intellectual engagement requires "a serious emotional and cognitive investment in learning, using higher-order thinking skills to increase understanding, solve complex problems, and construct new knowledge".<sup>2</sup> Use the Tell Them From Me (TTFM) data to find out if your students are being appropriately challenged in the classroom and are motivated to learn.

The Tell Them From Me (TTFM) Student Survey is designed to collect student voice data on student engagement, school safety, student health and wellness, and other drivers of schooling outcomes. Understand what drives your students to learn and challenge them to achieve their best.

<sup>1</sup> Willms, J. D. (2003). *Student engagement at school: A sense of belonging and participation*. Paris: Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.

<sup>2</sup> Willms, J. D., Friesen, S. & Milton, P. (2009). What did you do in school today? Transforming classrooms through social, academic, and intellectual engagement (First National Report). Toronto: Canadian Education Association.