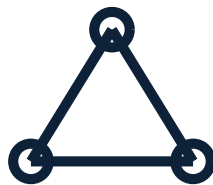




FIRST FIVE · COMMUNITY SCHOOLS · STRATEGY 3 · CONNECTED

# Find the Common Ground

Belonging, peer connection, and positive interaction.



FOUNDATIONAL MESSAGE

**We're stronger when we're connected.**

1 2 3 4 5  
KNOWN SUPPORTED **CONNECTED** MOTIVATED EMPOWERED



## STRATEGY 3 — CONNECTED

# Find the Common Ground

**Focus:** Belonging, peer connection, common ground, and positive interaction

## Activity Summary

Students respond to a series of simple prompts by moving to different parts of the room. Once there, they quickly acknowledge two or three people who made the same choice with a high five, fist bump, or wave. The activity helps students discover small points of connection without requiring a long conversation or putting anyone on the spot.

## Why it matters

Connection often begins with something small. Students do not need to become close friends in five minutes. Simply discovering shared interests, preferences, or experiences can make a classroom feel less anonymous. The goal is repeated experiences of: "There are people here I have something in common with."

## Set Up the Room

Use four consistent areas of the room. Match the slide layout to the room so students can move quickly without confusion.

FRONT LEFT

FRONT RIGHT

BACK LEFT

BACK RIGHT

## Teacher Framing

“ We’re going to see how many small connections we can find in this room.

“ THEN  
Pick your answer, move to that part of the room, and when you get there connect with two or three people.

“ THEN  
High five, fist bump, or wave — whatever you’re comfortable with.

## The Pattern

PICK › MOVE › CONNECT

1

STEP 1

### How Do You Connect Best?

When you’re getting to know people, what usually works best for you?

Talking

Doing something together

Helping each other

Laughing or joking around

“ Pick one. Move!

2

STEP 2

What Kind of Group Do You Like?

Which kind of group sounds best?

|                          |                         |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| A team                   | A club or activity      |
| A small group of friends | A project or work group |

“ Connect with two or three people. Then back to the middle.

3

STEP 3

Where Do You Feel Most Connected?

Which part of school usually feels easiest to connect in?

|                              |                                     |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Class                        | Lunch or breaks                     |
| Sports, clubs, or activities | Just hanging out with people I know |

“ Look around. Different people connect in different places.

4

STEP 4

# What Helps a Group Work?

What makes a group better?

|                        |                          |
|------------------------|--------------------------|
| People listen          | People include others    |
| People help each other | People can be themselves |

“ Move, then connect one more time.

## Close

“ We don’t all connect in exactly the same way.

“ THEN  
But every time we notice something we have in common, include someone, help someone, or simply acknowledge another person, we make the community stronger.

“ FINISH WITH  
We’re stronger when we’re connected.

## Helps Strengthen

Connection • Behavior • Attendance

## Community Schools Alignment

Active Family & Community Engagement / Collaborative Practices

We're stronger when we're connected.

ACTIVITY PATTERN

PICK > MOVE > CONNECT

1 > 2 > 3 > 4 > 5  
KNOWN SUPPORTED **CONNECTED** ATED EMPOWERED

