



FIRST FIVE · COMMUNITY SCHOOLS · STRATEGY 4 · MOTIVATED

What's Worth Showing Up For?

Attendance, motivation, relevance, and school engagement.



FOUNDATIONAL MESSAGE

There's something here worth connecting to.

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



STRATEGY 4 — MOTIVATED

What’s Worth Showing Up For?

Focus: Attendance, motivation, relevance, interests, and school engagement

Activity Summary

Students think about the different reasons school can matter to them and move to one of four broad categories: people, opportunities, goals, or things they enjoy. The activity helps students identify at least one personal reason to stay connected to school without suggesting that everyone needs to love every part of it.

Why it matters

Students are more likely to engage when they can identify something that makes school personally meaningful. That “something” may be different for every student: a friend, trusted adult, sport, club, future goal, class, or opportunity. The purpose is not to convince students that every day of school is exciting. It is to help them ask: “What is one reason being here matters to me?”

Set Up the Room

Create four areas of the room. Each represents a broad reason that school might be worth showing up for.

PEOPLE

OPPORTUNITIES

GOALS

THINGS I ENJOY

Teacher Framing

“ There are a lot of different reasons people come to school.

“ THEN
Some reasons are big. Some are small. Both count.

“ THEN
Think about what gives you at least one reason to keep showing up and staying connected.

1

STEP 1

Pick Your Reason

“ Everybody stand up.

■ Point out the four areas: People, Opportunities, Goals, and Things I Enjoy.

“ Choose the one that best fits one reason school matters to you right now.

■ Students move.

2

STEP 2

Prime the Thinking

Friends · teachers · coaches · staff · someone who notices me

Sports · clubs · activities · learning something new · getting help

Graduating · improving · future plans · proving something to myself

A class · art · music · lunch · projects · activities

“ You don’t have to share your answer. Just think of one specific example that fits your category.

■ Give students 15–20 seconds.

3

STEP 3

One Thing Worth Connecting To

“ Now finish this sentence in your head: “One thing here that is worth showing up for is...”

Optional: students can tell someone near them their answer, but sharing should remain voluntary.

4

STEP 4

Take It With You

Optional: give students a small reminder card.

ONE THING WORTH SHOWING UP FOR One person, opportunity, goal, or experience I want to stay connected to:

Close

“ Nobody has to love every part of school.

“ THEN
But finding one person, one opportunity, one goal, or one experience that matters to you can give you another reason to stay connected.

“ FINISH WITH
There's something here worth connecting to.

Helps Strengthen

Motivation • Attendance • Resilience

Community Schools Alignment

Expanded and Enriched Learning Time

There’s something here worth connecting to.

ACTIVITY PATTERN

FIND A REASON > NAME IT > STAY CONNECTED

1 > 2 > 3 > 4 > 5
KNOWN SUPPORTED CONNED MOTIVATED EMPOWERED

