



FIRST FIVE · COMMUNITY SCHOOLS · STRATEGY 5 · EMPOWERED

Make It Better

Student voice, shared responsibility, and positive school culture.



FOUNDATIONAL MESSAGE

You help shape this community.

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

STRATEGY 5 — EMPOWERED



Make It Better

Focus: Student voice, shared responsibility, belonging, and positive school culture

Activity Summary

Students move to one of four areas representing something they would like to strengthen in their classroom or school: making it more welcoming, helpful, interesting, or connected. Students then think of one small action that could help and identify something students themselves could contribute.

Why it matters

Students are more likely to feel connected to a community when they believe they have a meaningful role in it. This activity shifts the question from “What should adults do to make school better?” to “What can we build together?” The goal is not to ask students to solve major school problems in five minutes. It is to help them recognize that small actions from students matter too.

Set Up the Room

Create four areas. Each one represents a way the classroom or school community could become stronger.

MORE WELCOMING	MORE HELPFUL
MORE INTERESTING	MORE CONNECTED

Teacher Framing

“ Every community can get better.

“ THEN
You're part of this one, so your ideas matter too.

“ THEN
We're going to think about one small way our class or school could become even better.

1

STEP 1

Choose What You'd Improve

“ Everybody stand up.

■ Point out the four areas.

“ If you could make one of these things a little stronger here, which would you choose?

■ Students move.

2

STEP 2

Think Small

“ Don't try to fix the whole school.

“ THEN

Think of one small thing that could make your category better.

Greet people · help new students · invite someone in ·
learn names

Make it easier to ask for help · share resources · help
someone who is stuck

More activities · student projects · clubs · speakers ·
ways to try new things

More ways to meet people · team activities · peer
mentors · time to talk

3

STEP 3

What Could Students Do?

“ Now think about this part: What is something students could do?

“ THEN

It doesn't need to be a huge idea. Small things count.

4

STEP 4

Make It Better Card

Optional: students pick up a card and return to their seats.

MAKE IT BETTER

One thing that could make our school or class better is... _____

MAKE IT BETTER

One thing students could do to help is... _____

“

IF COLLECTING CARDS

I'm going to look through these because your ideas can help us see things adults may not notice.

Close

“

A strong community isn't something that just happens to us.

“

THEN

It's something people help build.

“

FINISH WITH

You help shape this community.

Helps Strengthen

Behavior • Connection • Motivation

Community Schools Alignment

Collaborative Leadership & Practices

You help shape this community.

ACTIVITY PATTERN

NOTICE SOMETHING > SHARE AN IDEA > DO SOMETHING SMALL

