



Cultivate

Promoting Positive Learning Environments that Improve Academic Performance

While we have always known that the same student can get different grades in different classes—an A in math versus a C in history—research now shows that these differences in performance across classrooms cannot simply be attributed to student aptitudes and interests.

New research shows the learning environments educators create can have a strong influence on students’ Learning Mindsets and Learning Strategies (Mindsets & Strategies), and, ultimately, their academic performance, identity development, and well-being.

The experiences students have in their classrooms have the power to alter how they perceive themselves as learners and the effort they put into their work, which is reflected in their grades. Data collected from thousands of students consistently show students with strong Mindsets & Strategies earn more As and fewer Fs than those with weaker Mindsets & Strategies – and that students’ Mindsets & Strategies fluctuate from class to class in relation to the classroom learning environments.

The Cultivate Survey and Framework

The Cultivate Survey illuminates how teaching practices—from how quickly assignments are graded and returned to how students are greeted—influence students’ Mindsets & Strategies, and, in turn, grades. It provides educators with insight into 6th-12th grade students’ perceptions of their own Mindsets & Strategies—the sense of belonging they feel, the way they approach their work, and how they see themselves as learners.

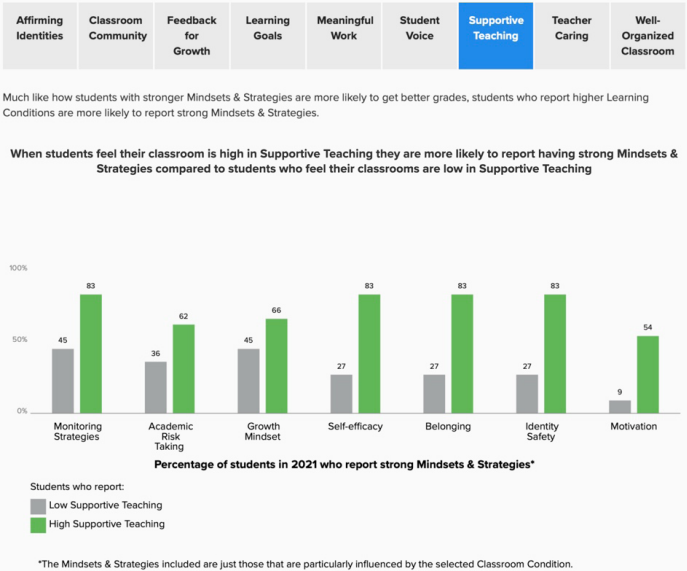
Cultivate also provides actionable insight into students’ perceptions of their learning environments—the **Learning Conditions** that matter most for cultivating the strong Mindsets & Strategies that fuel strong academic performance, positive identity development, and well-being.



Educators can use the Cultivate Survey and Reporting Site to:

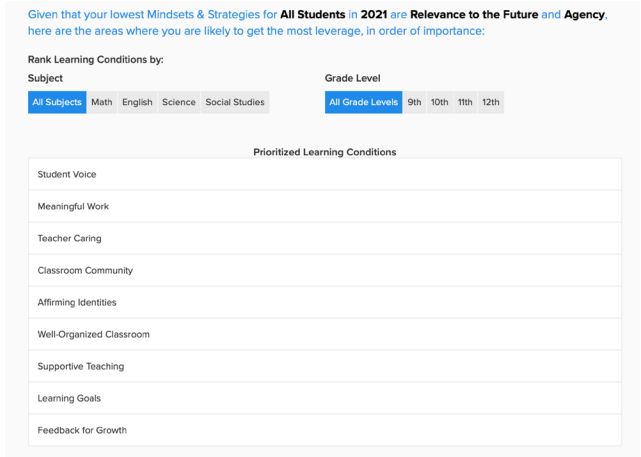
Understand how students’ perceptions of their learning environments affect their Mindsets & Strategies

On the Cultivate Reporting Site, educators can see how students’ perceptions of various Learning Conditions, such as the learning goals teachers establish, classwork they assign, and level of support they provide, affect the Mindsets & Strategies linked to strong academic performance, identity development, and well-being.



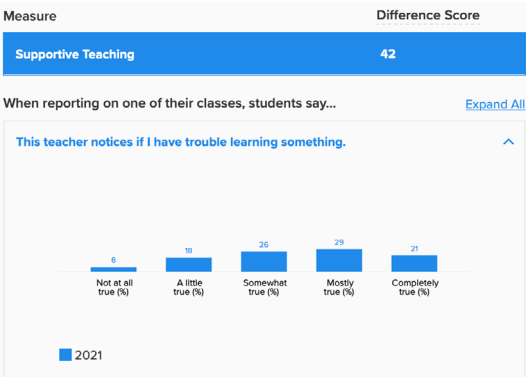
Identify patterns in student perceptions of learning environments

Educators can disaggregate the results from the Cultivate for Schools survey by grade level, subject area, or a combination of both and use this information to better understand how learning environments differ across different groups of classrooms (pictured). Educators who administer the Cultivate for Coaches survey as part of a coaching support program can disaggregate the results by class period.



Set priorities and guide efforts to create learning environments that support all students

Through the Cultivate Survey and Reporting Site, educators can see how students’ perceptions of various Learning Conditions affect the Mindsets & Strategies linked to strong academic performance. Based on your school's data, Cultivate presents users with a list of **Prioritized Learning Conditions** ranked according to which will provide the most leverage to positively affect students’ Mindsets & Strategies. Each Learning Condition is comprised of a set of actionable items, and accompanied by a detailed practice guide, that can assist teachers in their efforts to build the kind of learning environments which strengthen Mindsets & Strategies and, ultimately, allow all students to thrive.



Learn More: To learn more about the Cultivate Survey, Framework, and Reporting Site, visit uchicagoimpact.org/cultivate or contact us at cultivate@uchicago.edu.