



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.

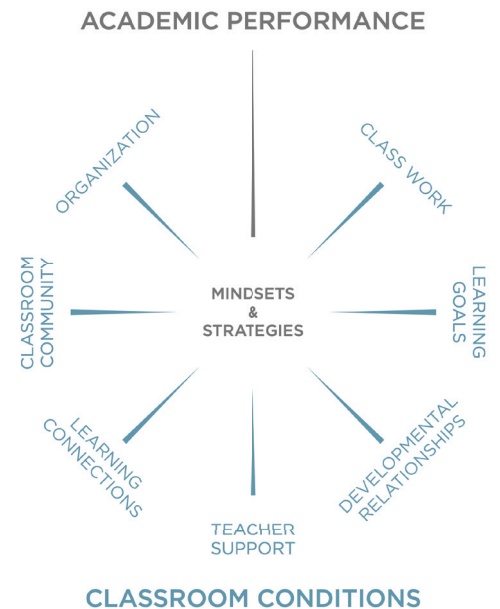
New research shows the learning environments educators create can have a strong influence on students’ Academic Mindsets and Learning Strategies, and, ultimately, performance. The experiences students have in their classrooms have the power to alter how they perceive themselves as learners and the effort they put into their work, which is reflected in their grades. Data collected from thousands of students consistently show students with strong Academic Mindsets and Learning Strategies earn more As and fewer Fs than those with weaker Academic Mindsets and Learning Strategies.

Based on this research, UChicago Impact partnered with the University of Chicago Consortium on School Research to develop Cultivate, a survey and framework designed to support educators in creating the kind of learning environments that can change what students believe and, thus, how they perform.

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’ Academic Mindsets and Learning Strategies, and, in turn, grades. It provides educators with insight into 6th-12th grade students’ perceptions of their own Academic Mindsets and Learning 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 **Classroom Conditions** that matter most for cultivating the strong academic mindsets and learning strategies that fuel strong academic performance.



Educators can use the Cultivate Survey and Reporting Site to:

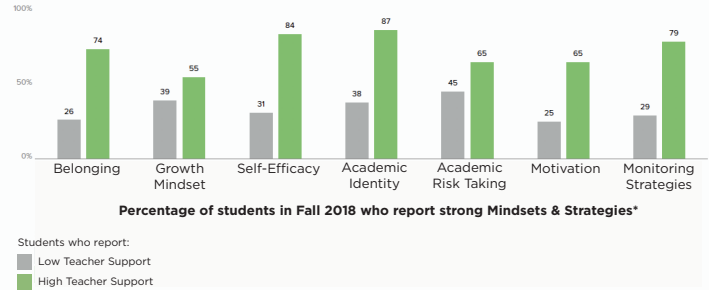
Understand how students' perceptions of their learning environments affect their Academic Mindsets and Learning Strategies:

Through the Cultivate survey and reporting site, educators can see how students' perceptions of various Classroom Conditions, such as the learning goals teachers establish, class work they assign, and level of support they provide, affect the Academic Mindsets and Learning Strategies linked to strong academic performance.

Teacher Support	Learning Connections	Developmental Relationships	Classroom Community	Learning Goals	Organization	Class Work
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Much like how students with stronger Mindsets & Strategies are more likely to get better grades, students who report higher Classroom Conditions are more likely to report strong Mindsets & Strategies.

When students at Sample School feel their classrooms are high in Teacher Support they are more likely to report having strong Mindsets & Strategies compared to students who feel their classrooms are low in Teacher Support



Identify patterns in student perceptions of learning environments across grade levels and subject areas:

Educators can disaggregate Cultivate survey results 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.

Rank Classroom Conditions by:

Subject	Grade Level
All Subjects Math English Science Social Studies All Grade Levels	9th 10th 11th 12th

Prioritized Classroom Conditions

Teacher Support
Classroom Community
Developmental Relationships
Learning Connections
Class Work
Organization
Learning Goals

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

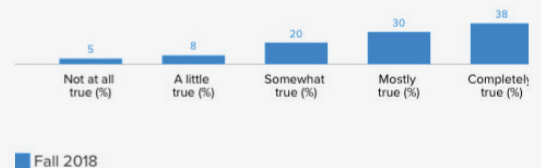
Cultivate presents users with a list of Prioritized Classroom Conditions ranked according to which will provide the most leverage to positively affect students' Academic Mindsets and Learning Strategies.

Each Classroom Condition is comprised of a set of actionable items that can guide efforts to build the kind of learning environments that can strengthen Academic Mindsets and Learning Strategies and, ultimately, help all students thrive.

Measure	Difference Score
Teacher Support	46

When reporting on one of their classes, students say... [Expand All](#)

This teacher helps me understand what went wrong when I make a mistake.



Learn More:

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