

August Care Package

Setting Up Your School & Classroom for Belonging



Washington Office of Superintendent of
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

Bite (5-10 minutes)



Option 1: [Reflecting on our Practice: Ten Ways Schools Can Foster Belonging Among Students With and Without Disabilities](#) by Erik Carter, Vanderbilt University

Check out this short handout from the Progress Center at the American Institutes for Research. Look at the ten dimensions of belonging – how do you feel about these categories? Do you see these in the systems work you do?

Look at the reflection assessment – can you think of how this would have looked at a school you attended or worked at/with? Do these feel relevant to your current work? Do they feel relevant to your workplace?

Option 2: Clip from The [Problem of Practice Panel at the National School Climate Center's 2017 summit](#)

Watch this 5-minute video from NSCC's summit: Connecting Communities of Courage. Panelists (including youth advocates, educational equity experts, and policy leaders) offer tangible wisdom as they answer the question: how do we create school communities where all students are engaged? Discussion of both personal and professional experiences provides various lenses through which to understand engagement and belonging as integral pieces to student success. Which solutions or suggestions resonate with you?

Snack (30 minutes)

Read: [The Racial School-Climate Gap](#) by Adam Voight, WestEd Health & Human Development Program *Content warning: systemic racism*

Option 1: Discuss with your team

- How do you see this research as relevant to your current work?
- Did anything surprise you? Did anything not surprise you?
- How might OSPI address Washington's racial school climate gap?
- What other gaps do you think exist in experiences of school climate? (e.g., ability, immigration status, etc.)

Option 2: Self reflection, journaling

- What are 2-3 quotes that stood out to you in this article?
- Do you feel that this research reflects what you experienced in school as a student?
 - o If yes, in what ways does it do so?
 - o If no, in what ways does it differ?



- How do you see yourself being involved in addressing this gap in Washington state?
- Feel free to answer any of the team discussion questions as well

Meal (90+ minutes)

Option 1: Watch & Discuss Webinar - [The First 100 Days: Center Your School Climate](#)



From the National School Climate Center and Youth Development Institute, this webinar presents school climate as an integral piece of building a school community in which all members feel a sense of belonging and support. Discussion around inclusionary practices and the broader community. Panelists offer tangible answers for common questions, such as: How do we center student needs and mental health? What are strategies for staff retention and building community?

Discussion Questions for Your Team

- What stood out to you in this discussion?
- What strategies are relevant to your work? How can these be integrated into projects?
- What concepts got you excited?
- Where do you see Social Emotional Learning in this video?

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Option 2: Attend the upcoming Graduation Equity Webinar!



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