

# Student Engagement

## What is student engagement?

Student engagement is the degree of attention, curiosity, interest, optimism, and passion that students show when they are learning or being taught (*The Glossary of Education Reform*). Idaho measures student engagement based on students' responses to 20 research-based questions about their perceptions and behaviors across the behavioral, emotional, and cognitive domains. The state contracts with Cognia.com for this survey.

## Why is student engagement important?

Research indicates that engagement is a critical component in student success, both academically and outside the classroom. Students who are engaged find more value in the learning experience, exhibit greater persistence, and report higher levels of achievement. Student engagement measures afford stakeholders valuable information about school quality and the student learning experience beyond that provided by assessment results.

## How does Idaho calculate student engagement for school accountability?

The survey measures three types of engagement: cognitive, behavioral and emotional. For each of these domains, the survey scoring rubric characterizes student as committed, compliant, disengaged, or mixed, based on their responses. Students responding as committed reflect authentic engagement.

At the school level, the state first calculates the average number of students in grades 3-12 who are committed across the three domains using the following formula:

$$\frac{\text{Number of students } \underline{\text{committed}} \text{ in behavioral domain} + \text{number of students } \underline{\text{committed}} \text{ in cognitive domain} + \text{number of students } \underline{\text{committed}} \text{ in emotional domain}}{3}$$

The state then uses this value to calculate an aggregated, school-level student engagement percentage as follows:

$$\frac{\text{Average number of students } \underline{\text{committed}} \text{ from step 1}}{\text{Total number of students completing the survey}}$$

The state reports the percent of students "Committed" for all schools with enrollment in grades 3-12 and uses this measure to help identify the lowest-performing K-8 schools for Comprehensive Support and Improvement. Low levels of student engagement among particular student groups may lead to identification for targeted support and improvement.

### DATA SOURCES

Student engagement survey calculations are based on students' submitted responses during the state survey window February 15 – March 31, 2023.

Survey responses are then matched with student enrollment and demographic information reported in June 2023 ISEE reports.

Schools that do not participate in the survey were assigned 0% as the value on this indicator.

**Questions?** Contact the Assessment & Accountability team at [assessments@sde.idaho.gov](mailto:assessments@sde.idaho.gov)

