



The Student Connectedness Project

Designed by Students, for Students

Co-creating safe, accessible & community-focused spaces where every student is connected to adults, peers, and purpose

Connected to Purpose

February 25, 2026

Welcome

The Connectedness Project serves as an invitation for students to become learners, leaders, and designers of school connectedness. Together, you will explore how to ensure that every student is connected to an adult, peers, purpose, and a welcoming space.

Season 3

The Four Connectedness Components

01

Connected to Adults

Caring adults at school can make a big difference in your school experience

02

Connected to Peers

Supportive friendships empower you to feel safe, understood, and encouraged

03

Connected to Purpose

Making a difference lets you feel connected to something bigger than yourself

04

Welcoming Space

Clear academic expectations and a welcoming school make you feel motivated and like you belong

Who is in the room?



Connection Circle

Please share your name, school, state, and think about a time that you helped someone. How did it make you feel?

Connected to Purpose- Prosocial Activities-Helping Others

Our Time Together

- Think about how having a purpose can strengthen your sense of belonging, agency and connectedness
- Discover how how you can be a positive influence and make a impact
- Design Sprint update: Where is your team in the design process?

For Today's Session
Please have: a pen,
paper, or computer to
capture notes, and
courage to share!



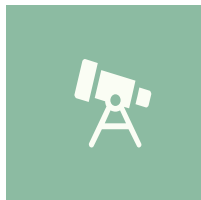
The Research

Helping others

- Builds purpose
- Provides academic and social benefits
- Strengthens real world skills and civic engagement
- Helps everyone feel included

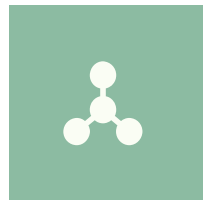


Research



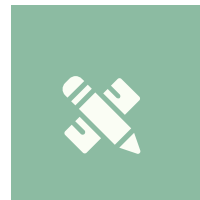
Agency

You have power
and voice to
choose how to
help others



Belonging

Helping others
strengthens
relationships



Connectedness

You are part of
something
bigger when you
help others

Think about a time you did something by:

- helping someone,
- improving something,
- or making a difference.

What were you doing?

How did it make you feel?

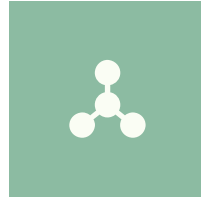


Our Experiences are connected to School Success



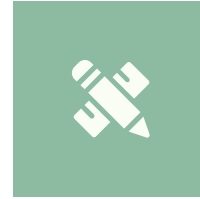
Attendance

Attendance goes up, and less days are missed



Behavior

Class engagement increases



Course Performance

Grades improve, and students feel successful

Stop and Jot



What types of opportunities are available in your community that are connected to a purpose?

Do students at our school have opportunities to feel connected to a purpose?



Imagine every student had a clear purpose at school. (an opportunity to help others)

What would we see happening differently?

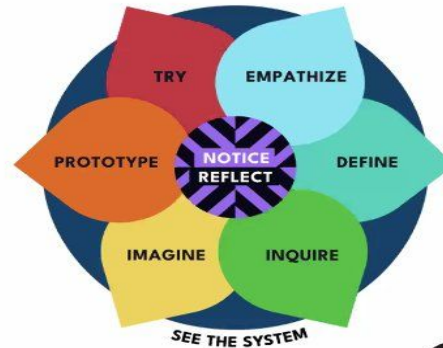
Large Group

Share Out

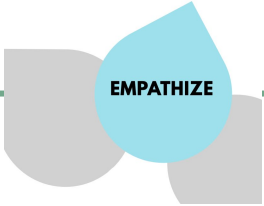


Design Sprint Challenge

How might we design a way for us as students to feel more connected at school?



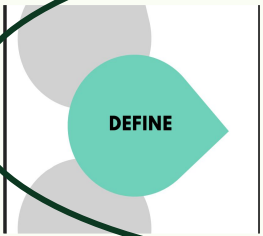
Design Sprint



EMPATHIZE

Gain Multiple Perspectives

How might students feel more connected at school?

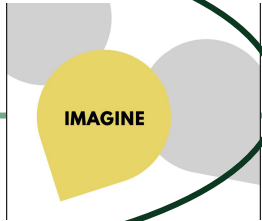


DEFINE

Define the Challenge

How might we help students feel more connected at school?

What might make our relationships stronger?

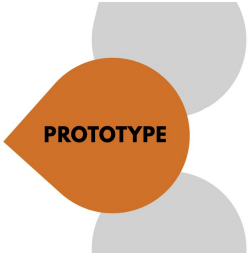


IMAGINE

Ideate

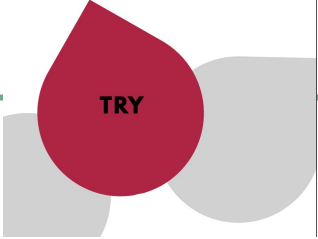
Build on each other's ideas.

Design Sprint

An orange teardrop shape with the word "PROTOTYPE" inside, positioned over a light gray abstract shape.

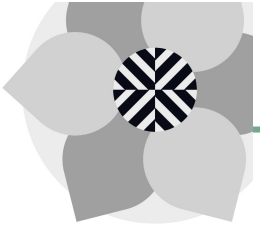
Prototype

How might the idea work? Doesn't have to be perfect.

A red teardrop shape with the word "TRY" inside, positioned over a light gray abstract shape.

Try

Try your idea.

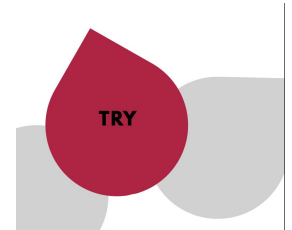
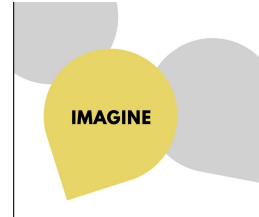
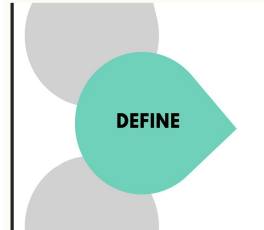
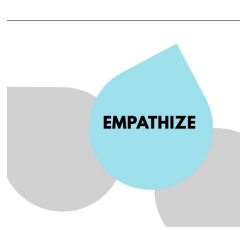
A circular icon with a black and white spiral pattern in the center, surrounded by light gray abstract shapes.

Reflect

What worked and what didn't work?
How might we build on what is working?

Design Sprint Snapshot

Which stage best describes where your team is at today?



Learning
more about
your peers
experiences

Deciding
what to do

Developing
ideas

Trying out an
idea

Design Sprint Share Out

- Share your experiences from gaining the perspectives of others or how you have planned to gain those perspectives
- How did you capture what you learned?
- What is one important thing your data helped you learn? **DEFINE THE CHALLENGE**
- What ideas do you have from what you learned? **HOW MIGHT WE.....**





Questions?

Next Steps

Create a
team

January
2026

Attend Virtual Sessions
and Co-Creation

Connected to Adults
January 28

Connected to Peers
February 11

Connected to Purpose
February 25

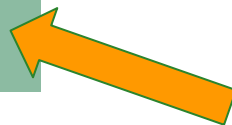
Connected to a
Welcoming Place
March 11

Office
Hours

March 25

Virtual
Showcase

April 29



thank
you

Your Tango

If you have a
strong purpose in life,
you don't have
to be pushed.
**Your passion will
drive you there.**

ROY T. BENNETT



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The Everyone Graduates Center Team



[www.redesign.every1graduates.org
/student-connectedness-project/](http://www.redesign.every1graduates.org/student-connectedness-project/)

EVERYONE
GRADUATES
CENTER