

# Guide to Personalized Learning Experiences

## Eight Strategies to Implement Personalized Learning Experiences



## 2. Develop Community

Strong, positive relationships are the lifeblood of personalized learning experiences. Having strong connections between students, teachers, school leaders and the community creates a sense of engagement and belonging. When learners and educators feel engaged, they are more successful.

### METHODS

**Create a rhythm of conferencing** with learners to check in, with frequent and open communication.

**Encourage frequent and multiple interactions** with peers, teachers, leadership and community members.

**Build teams of teachers** who work together on cross-disciplinary projects and make decisions together.

### **Story from the Field**

Steelcase Education researchers observed a site familiar in many schools that actively implement personalized learning experiences: a genuine emotional connection between students and teachers and their principal. Instead of functioning as a remote authority figure, the principal was engaged and interested in the school community. The principal crouched down to look at students eye-to-eye as they shared their feelings or answered a quick question about their classroom progress; teachers were stopped for a quick check in to evaluate classroom activity or determine whether the teacher needed additional support. As a result, we saw students proactively flock to and high-five the principal like a local celebrity. These frequent, friendly interactions underscored the shared understanding that relationships are essential to personalized learning experiences — and important contributors to creating a strong sense of community.

## **LAUNCH PAD: TRY THESE PERSONALIZED LEARNING ACTIVITIES TODAY**

### **Use Explicit Signage**

Clearly stating school or classroom priorities, such as goals or valued character traits, reminds everyone of their sense of responsibility and accountability to others.

### **Create Supportive Spaces**

Physical spaces should encourage teachers and students to connect one-on-one and develop productive relationships.

### **Model Behavior**

Engaging in and modeling ideal behavior is critical for students, teachers and school leaders.

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**NEXT CHAPTER** – [Nurture Trust by Granting Freedom](#)

**PREVIOUS CHAPTER** – [Know + Respect the Learner](#)

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