Student Success Framework

Building Student Skills
For the Future

rock by rock

What do you want learning to lead to?

Think about your students. What kind of people do you hope they become? What do you want them to carry with them long after they leave your classroom or school?

Most educators would say they want students to grow into capable problem solvers, thoughtful leaders, and compassionate human beings. They want students to be curious, resilient, and confident in who they are. They want them to be prepared not just for the next grade but for life.

Project-based learning can be a powerful path to this kind of growth. When students work on meaningful problems and connect their learning to the real world, they begin to build the skills and confidence they need to thrive. When this learning is anchored within a clear framework that outlines the outcomes we are working toward, it becomes even more intentional, focused, and lasting.

That is where the Student Success Framework comes in.

## A Framework to Support Real Growth

We know that deeper learning, the kind that truly prepares students for life, requires expanding the outcomes we focus on beyond traditional reading and math standards. In a fast-changing world, core academic skills still matter. But on their own, they're not enough.

Students need opportunities to apply those skills through rich learning experiences that build critical thinking, creativity, curiosity, and problem-solving. That kind of learning requires depth. It requires students to grapple with big ideas, collaborate with others, create meaningful work, and reflect on what they are learning and why it matters.

Deep learning is not only more memorable. It is also more engaging and more empowering. When students experience deep learning, they grow in both core academics and essential life habits more effectively than when these skills are taught in isolation.

The Student Success Framework provides the core outcomes students should work towards to become future-ready, life-long learners:

- **Strong Academics**: The foundational knowledge and thinking skills students need to make sense of the world and engage with challenging content.

- **Life Habits**: The habits that equip students to grow as individuals who can adapt, connect with others, and contribute in meaningful ways.

- **Purpose and Sense of Self**: The self-awareness, reflection, and identity development that help students discover who they are, what they care about, and how they want to make an impact.
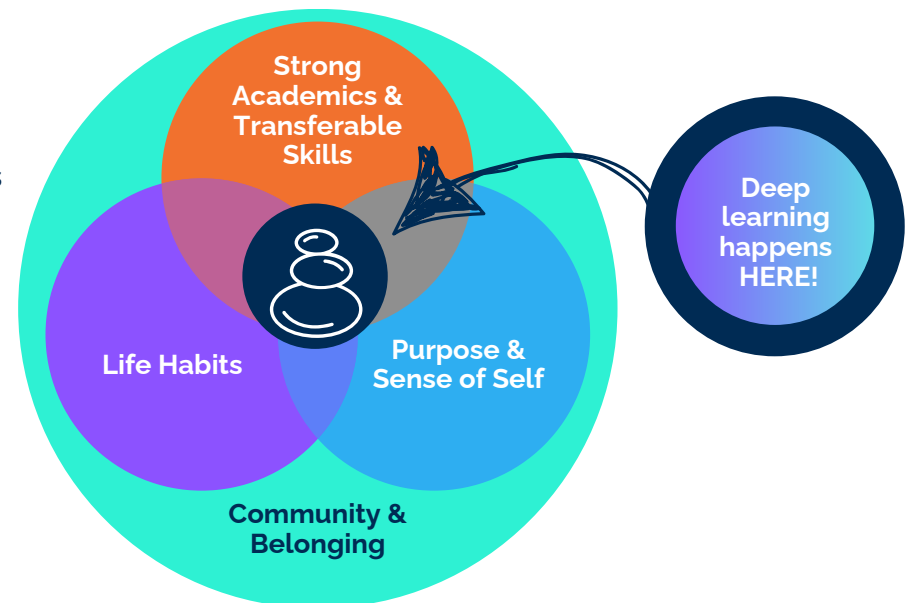
How This Framework Can Support Your Program

The Student Success Framework is an outcomes framework to help you create a learning environment where students build real skills, reflect on who they are becoming, and feel empowered to grow. No matter your setting, this framework can support your planning and practice by helping you stay focused on what matters most for student growth.

If you have already identified the outcomes that are most important for your students, this resource can help you see how the outcomes supported by our approach align with and reinforce your goals.

If you are still defining your outcomes, this tool can serve as a starting point. It can help you reflect on your values, clarify your priorities, and explore how project-based learning can support meaningful growth for your students.

Educators and school leaders use the Student Success Framework to:

- **Clarify priorities**. Use the framework to identify and organize the outcomes that matter most for your students' academic, personal, and social development.
- **Support student reflection and coaching**. Help students reflect on these outcomes before, during, and after each project to set goals and identify the skills they are working to leverage and grow.
- **Assess learning in authentic ways**. Use the framework to help students assess their growth by using aligned assessment tools such as rubrics, checklists, and reflections
- **Strengthen family and community engagement**. Share these outcomes with families and stakeholders so they are clear on students' goals and can support student growth.

Understanding the Three Core Outcomes

The Student Success Framework is built around three interconnected areas of student development. These outcomes were selected because they reflect the skills and habits that young people need to thrive, both in the classroom and in life.

Each area plays a unique role. It is at their intersection that deep, lasting learning takes place. Together, they support students in becoming confident learners, thoughtful leaders, and compassionate contributors to their communities.

The next section explores each of these priority focus areas, describing how they appear in student learning and why they matter.

Three Core Outcomes

Strong Academics: Education must focus on core skills in reading and math while preparing students for life beyond school. Mastery of literacy and numeracy builds a foundation for analyzing information, solving problems, and communicating effectively. Project-based learning builds upon this foundation, focusing on a core set of transferable, career-ready skills that support leadership and problem-solving, which help students thrive now and in the future.

Life Habits: Success in school and life is about more than academics. Students thrive when they cultivate essential habits like curiosity, creativity, empathy, courage, impact awareness, kinship, and a learner mindset. These habits help them ask thoughtful questions, collaborate with others, persist through challenges, and understand their role in the broader world. By fostering these traits, education becomes a journey of self-discovery and growth, preparing students to adapt and lead in an ever-changing environment.

Purpose and Sense of Self: When students understand their strengths, passions, and values, they gain a sense of purpose that drives their learning and their lives. Intentional reflection and goal-setting help students connect their daily efforts to their bigger hopes and dreams, giving meaning to their work. When students see how learning connects to what matters to them, they become more motivated and engaged. This focus on purpose helps them build confidence, take ownership of their learning, and feel more prepared for the future.

Academic Content and Skills The foundational knowledge and thinking skills students need to make sense of the world and engage with challenging content.	Life Habits The habits that equip students to grow as individuals who can adapt, connect with others, and contribute in meaningful ways.	Purpose and Sense of Self The self-awareness, reflection, and identity development that help students discover who they are, what they care about, and how they want to make an impact.
K-2 Students	**Learner** "I try my best to learn and grow."	**Passions & Purpose** "I know about my passions and areas of interest."
Learn Content "I can explain an important problem in our world."		
Create and Explain a Solution "I can take action to help solve that problem.	**Curiosity** "I ask questions to look for answers so I can learn and grow."	**Strengths** "I'm aware of my strengths and areas of growth."
Communicate Effectively "I can take action by sharing solutions with others."	**Creativity** "I create new ideas and new ways to do things."	**Emotions** "I'm aware of my emotions and how they impact me and others."
3-5 Students	**Empathy** "I think about how others feel and try to understand them."	
Understand the Need or Problem "I can explain the problem, why it exists, and support my understanding with science."	**Kinship** "I care about others and my community."	
Make a Strong Argument and Solution "I use claim, evidence, and reasoning to help people understand the problem and show them how they can make a difference."	**Impact Awareness** "I think about how my actions affect me, others, my community, and my world."	
Communicate Effectively with Others "I share my project in a way that makes people trust me and want to take action."	**Courage** "I stand up to challenges and keep going when things feel hard."	