

## Article #27

The 40 Developmental Assets were assessed in June 2005 using the survey *Me and My World*. Of the children surveyed in our community, 46% report that they experience the asset *Learning engagement*.

**Asset #22: Learning engagement—Young person is responsive, attentive, and actively engaged in learning at school and enjoys participating in learning activities outside of school.**

*Consider this . . .*

If young people are not actively engaged in learning, chances are they are either bored or under some kind of stress that prevents them from being engaged. The list of things that might be getting in the way is long: hunger, lack of sleep, fear of failure or looking stupid. If just a few youth are disengaged, it's likely that the reasons are personal and should be dealt with individually. If many students lack enthusiasm, it's time to consider making some changes in the classroom or school.

*Try this . . .*

Adults:

- Encourage youth to start each day prepared, as if school is their job. Being prepared means getting enough sleep, eating breakfast, having appropriate school supplies, and having homework done.
- Volunteer in a classroom. Encourage youth to volunteer with younger classes.
- Start or support community efforts to supply schools with the materials students need (notebooks, pens and pencils, text books, and so on).

Youth:

- Get enough rest at night so that you can come in ready to learn.
- Participate in class discussions.
- Relate what you learn to real life.

- Take advantage of different ways to learn something new (rent a foreign film or documentary, listen to music you've never heard, read a new book).

From *Get the Word Out: Communication Tools and Ideas for Asset Builders Everywhere*.

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