

Putting It Together

I observed 6th and 7th grade students in several different classes. While all students seemed engaged and in some cases compliant, I felt as though students were not benefiting from age appropriate policies and activities. In certain classes, teachers met the needs of students at their appropriate level. Teachers grouped in this category addressed the social needs of students while also enforcing student learning. These teachers allowed students to choose their groups, which gave students the opportunity to socialize with their peers but learn as well. Teachers who did not meet this need silenced students and placed them in teacher made groups. In middle grades, students often express negative feelings towards school. In these grades, students tend to be less motivated and often engage in misconduct.

Lacking:

Physical:

- Physically students are not given the opportunity for free play. Students are allowed to participate in Physical Education as a class once a school year for a semester.
- Education about health and importance of taking care of their bodies.

Cognitive:

- More opportunities for highly engaging activities.
- More opportunities for brain breaks.
- Increased literacy across the curriculum.

Self Concept, Motivation

- Increase in leadership opportunities in all grades
- Guidance for students with discipline issues

Peer Relations

- Opportunities for positive peer interactions throughout school day.
- Professional development for teachers on how to address bullying.

Language

- Teach students developmental skills
- Address literacy deficiencies and look for ways to close gaps.