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“We know that when students are disengaged they aren’t ready to learn. Are there some tips for increasing students’ engagement in school?”

Yes. Here are five Tips for Success:

1. Think about different types of engagement
  2. Encourage proven classroom strategies to improve engagement
  3. Strengthen student advocacy and support
  4. Reassess the extracurricular program
  5. Ask students what they need
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Research shows that in a typical school, about 25 per cent of all students have low engagement. Schools need to know who these students are and regularly check and connect. Look for students who are low achievers, have behaviour problems or may be suffering from anxiety and depression. Staff should look for warning signs of withdrawal. At Principal Congress 2011, keynote speaker Douglas Willms identified the following actions for schools:

- Identify advocates for disengaged students, who often do not have an adult they can turn to for advice
- Help students to become involved with school through clubs, sports and volunteer activities
- Check in daily with

