Understanding Student Motivation

Module 3 Review
Conditions That Foster Intrinsic Motivation

Conditions of belonging and safety can be created by:

- establishing a connected classroom in which students feel that they are valued members of a community.
- establishing a positive, inclusive environment that accommodates diverse learning styles, cultural backgrounds and individual capabilities.

Good everyday teaching practices can do more to counter student apathy than special efforts to attack motivation directly (Ericksen, S.C., 1978).
Classroom Climate

- All students need to feel that they are accepted and that they belong. When students feel alienated, learning is at risk.
- If students experience a connected, respectful classroom, they will be more engaged in learning process.
- Treating all students as high-performing learners increases their chance of success.
- Failing is OK, but students need to learn from their mistakes.
Diverse Learners

- Students who do not feel respected and valued by their teachers or classmates because of their gender, race, or national origin frequently suffer from low self-esteem. They do not feel that they belong or are accepted. This leads to low motivation to learn.

- Rules and norms must be established that promote respect and regard diversity as an asset.

- Teachers need to engage students in activities that build relationships and help students feel that they belong and have valuable contributions to make.

- External motivators may not be effective with some diverse learners.
Differentiated Instruction

- Students learn in a variety of ways, yet educators tend to use a limited array of instructional strategies.
- Teachers who differentiate consider student learning preferences, abilities, styles and interests.
Differentiated Instruction

- Teachers can craft lessons that tap into multiple student interests. Teachers can also provide tasks with varied levels of difficulty and adjust the degree of scaffolding they give.
- Teachers may use multiple instructional groups and offer time variations for students to complete tasks.
- Differentiation should not complicate life!
Know Your Students!

- The key to creating a positive, inclusive classroom is to know the students.
- Instructional success is also closely related to how well teachers know their students.