

Steps for (Re-)Establishing Classroom Community

Calm, well-managed and low stress environments are necessary for deep learning. Follow these steps to “re-launch” your learning environment...¹

1. Outline your **vision**. What does student learning look and sound like? How does your classroom community look, sound, and feel to you and to the students?
2. Reflect on **areas of strength and growth** (what is working and what’s not). You might begin by mentally walking through each day of the week and making notes in your planner. Notice patterns around transitions, subject areas, student groupings, routines, instructional methods, materials, time of day, etc.

Strength

Describe moments when students are learning and engaging positively with each other and with you.

Growth

Describe moments when learning is not happening, or negative interactions are occurring.

3. Craft a **plan** to achieve your classroom vision. Review this classroom management [checklist](#) and choose two or three high impact strategies to add to your toolkit. Establishing expectations and logical consequences that relate to them, along with using quiet signals, are high impact strategies.

- How will you introduce new expectations or routines?
- How will you build relationships with individual students and the class as a community?
- How will students practice? How often, for how long? (For your reset to “stick” plan on significant amounts of practice: every day for at least a week, then every other day. You may need to revisit one expectation or procedure every day, indefinitely, to support students adequately. That’s ok! You will more than make up the instructional time.)

4. Monitor your **progress** and celebrate success. Revisit your vision regularly, and notice any growth on your checklist. Are students learning more? Are they engaged?

- *Tip!* Share your goals with someone. An administrator, a trusted colleague, or even a non-teaching friend can help you recognize little wins and examine what’s not working.

¹ See <http://www.casel.org/library/?tag=Impact+and+Evidence> for research.