

Perseverance

Description: Perseverance is the ability to continue with a task despite coming across obstacles and challenges. This involves trying again after failing to solve a problem; working hard to achieve goals even if things get in the way; continuing to work on assignments that take longer than expected; and continuing routine activity in the face of adversity.

Elaboration: A lack of perseverance is not the same as laziness. Someone who struggles with perseverance may abandon previous goals when presented with new ideas, projects, or set backs, have difficulty maintaining focus on long-term goals, quit when struggling at a sport or game, or **appear** apathetic, lazy, or lethargic. Someone who perseveres tries again after failing to solve a problem, works hard to achieve goals even if things get in the way, continues to work on tasks that take longer than expected, and tries to be social even when he or she feels lonely.

Strategies:

Culture of Hard Work: Create a culture of hard work in the learning environment. Create a norm of pushing through to overcome challenges and not giving up. For example, frequently saying statements such as “Remember, we work hard at this program” or having the culture of hard work included in a morning mantra or mission statement will help to build this culture. Let students know that it is normal to struggle, feel confused and make mistakes – it’s all part of learning!

Frame Feedback Positively: Teach students the importance of optimism and positive self-talk For example, “This was a challenge that you can overcome and next time I know you can do better” not “You failed at this task.”

Track Progress: In addition to talking about the importance of effort, it is important to track and measure this with students.

Rewarding Effort: Reward effort more than academic achievement to put a focus on trying hard and persevering, not just intelligence.

Summer Long Projects: Have students take part in summer long projects to reinforce the importance of persevering over both challenges and long time frames, e.g. overcoming boredom.

Integrate Perseverance Language: Regularly use language related to perseverance, such as, “stick with it,” “drafts,” and “editing.”

Pacing Partners: Pair students together with people that can challenge them, but isn’t so advanced that the student feels like obtaining that level of achievement is unrealistic.

Attendance Ritual: Develop a ritual to celebrate students attending the program each day. This shows that you are valuing them sticking with the program, and that showing up is an important part of working hard to complete goals.

Perseverance Rubric

Evidence Absent	Inconsistent Evidence	Reasonable Evidence	Compelling Evidence
1	2	3	4
<p>There is little or no evidence that facilitators are using strategies that allow students to build skills in perseverance.</p> <p>Facilitator doesn't use any strategies to build perseverance.</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Facilitator uses a strategy in a negative way.</p> <p>For example, the facilitator has a high expectation of challenge, but the level of the challenge is the same for all students. Making it too challenging for some and too easy for others.</p>	<p>There is limited evidence that facilitators are using strategies that allow students to build skills in perseverance.</p> <p>Facilitator uses 1 (maybe 2) strategies to build perseverance, but not consistently or effectively.</p> <p>For example, the facilitator rewards effort of only some students in the group that perform better than other students, while some students who struggle more are not rewarded for their effort.</p>	<p>There is substantial evidence that facilitators are using strategies that allow students to build skills in perseverance.</p> <p>Facilitator consistently and effectively uses 1 (maybe 2) strategies to build perseverance.</p> <p>For example, the facilitator has a weekly challenge problem the students need to solve.</p>	<p>There is consistent and meaningful evidence that facilitators are using strategies that allow students to build skills in perseverance.</p> <p>Facilitator consistently and effectively uses 2 or more strategies to build perseverance.</p> <p>For example, the facilitator had the students create a business plan throughout the summer. The facilitator uses rewards for students sticking with it when things are challenging.</p>