

# Motivational Assessment

## Topic Summary:

Student motivation has long been tied to student success in the classroom but how to measure something as internal as motivation is often a difficult task? In an attempt to quantify student motivation, one must look at a variety of methods to try to get an accurate picture. Since motivation has been tied to student performance, actual student data should be collected to get a view of the student's overall academic and behavioral performance. Commercially created motivation surveys may be used or individual educators may develop their own based on student observation and communications.

## Implementation checklist:

1. Look at current and past student grades, state testing, and teacher reports of academic or behavioral performance.
2. Determine if the low performance is specific to content area. Is this a long-term pattern of performance? Does this student excel in other academic areas?
3. Perform sample content testing to determine if motivation or academic weaknesses might be the cause of poor academic performance.
4. Provide motivation assessments to determine what the student might work towards to improve their academic or behavioral performance.
5. Insert the determined motivational items into the student's academic day. Look for performance improvement coupled with the motivational incentives.

## Recommended Resources:

1. *Tools for Teaching* by Barbara Gross Davis (Jossey-Bass Publishers: San Francisco, 1993)

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