



# SoundOut Student Engagement Rubric

by Adam Fletcher

*Ways students are engaged...*

**Challenge**

**Reward**

*Forms of Engagement*

**8. Student/Adult Equity.**  
This may be a 40/60 split, or 20/80 split when it's appropriate. All students and adults are recognized for their impact and ownership of the outcomes.

An exceptional relationship in schools requiring intentional commitment by all participants. Deliberately addresses barriers and constantly ensures shared outcomes.

Creates structures that establish and support safe, supportive, effective, and sustainable environments for engagement, and ultimately recreates the climate and culture of the education system from classrooms to district boardrooms.

**7. Student-Driven Action.**  
These activities do not include adults in positions of authority; rather, adults are there to support students in secondary roles.

Students may operate in a vacuum, often without the recognition of their impact on the larger education system. Activities by students may not be seen by adults as valid.

Developing complete ownership in education, students effectively drive student engagement. Students experience the outcomes of their direct actions on themselves, their peers, and the larger educational system.

**6. Student/Adult Equality.**  
This is a 50/50 split of responsibilities, authority, obligation, and commitment.

No recognition for the specific needs or representation among students. Without that recognition, students can become disengaged.

Students can experience full power and authority, as well as the experience of forming basic student/adult partnerships.

*Variable*

**5. Adults actively consult students while they're involved.**

Students only have the authority that adults grant them, and their engagement is subject to external approval.

Students can substantially transform adults' opinions, ideas, and actions.

**4. Students inform adults.**

Adults do not have to let students impact their decisions.

Students can impact adult-driven decisions or activities.

*Forms of Non-Engagement*

**3. Adults tokenize students.**

Students are used inconsequentially by adults to reinforce the perception that students are engaged.

Validates students attending events without requiring effort beyond that.

**2. Adults use students to decorate their activities.**

The presence of students is treated as all that is necessary without reinforcing active engagement.

Attendance by students is a tangible outcome that may demonstrate consideration for engaging students.

**1. Adults manipulate students.**

Students are forced to attend without regard to their interest.

Adults experience involving students and gain rational for continuing activities.