

Intentional Instructional Moves

Strategic Steps to
Accelerate Student
Learning

Companion Guide

Chapter 13: Intentional Step Two



Intentional Step Two: Meet with Students to Set Goals

At this stage, students have at least a basic understanding of what a goal is, how to create one, and how to follow the necessary steps to achieve that goal. But they will likely still need guidance as they write their own goals and come up with an action plan. Here, the teacher should meet with students to support them as they set goals (this is the “We Do” portion of the strategy). Teachers can guide students as they work toward more independence and help them understand the value of sharing their goals with others.

Strategy 1: Goal Choice Board

The teacher creates a list of pictures (or text) that represent goals the students might work towards in the classroom, like reading a book independently or participating during class discussion (Toro, 2021). The teacher then invites the students to select a picture from the list of options at the beginning of class. Students can place the goal on their desk or the teacher can display them on the white board. The class then discusses their goals and what they can do to achieve them. Students make suggestions to each other and the teacher offers feedback. At the end of class (or the school day), the students rate themselves on their progress toward their goals and reflect on what they could do differently. The teacher might also use visual aids to help students track their progress, such as graphs, graphic organizers, and assessment targets.

This strategy is great for learners who struggle to come up with goals on their own. It also encourages students to share their goals with others and builds accountability. While learners can share their goals with the teacher, they should also be encouraged to share them with their peers and other people who can hold them accountable. With the short time-line of these goals (a class period or school day), students can experience the benefits of committing to their goals (.40) and

making measurable progress. Students are also encouraged to seek help when they need it (.72) and develop self-awareness and resilience.

Strategy 2: Team Goals

Often, we have students set goals individually, but they can also set goals as a team. For example, the teacher can begin class by asking students to think about their goals for behavior that day; or if they are working in small groups, the students can come up with goals for completing the task together.

This strategy differs from individual goal setting in that students must consider the needs of other members of the group. They must think more collectively, communicate effectively, and ask for input and feedback from their peers. Team goals promote help-seeking (.72), social-awareness, and flexibility.