

# 10 Ways to Keep Students Motivated

(Hint: Empowered educators drive motivation and achievement)



## 1. Get Real

Show students how the math they're learning can be applied in the real world. If you're teaching percentages, ask them to calculate the sale price of an item that's 25 percent off.



## 2. Foster a Growth Mindset

Praise student effort and perseverance, and teach students to believe in their own unlimited potential. Mindset psychologist [Carol Dweck](#) explains, “Focus on the learning process and show how hard work, good strategies, and good use of resources lead to better learning.”

Empower ALL of your learners with a growth mindset—including teachers. When you foster the understanding that abilities and intelligence can be developed, you unlock learning potential.



## 3. Challenge Their Ability, Not Their Patience

Motivation drops when students are pushed and can't succeed. Recognize that there's a fine line between challenge and frustration. Adaptive learning programs like Dreambox tailor task difficulty to the needs and ability of the student, which cuts down on the frustration factor.



## 4. Embrace Errors

According to Stanford professor [Jo Boaler](#), “Research shows that when students make mistakes, synapses fire and brains grow.” Creating a mistakes-friendly environment can motivate students to try harder.

Empower teachers with the freedom to take chances. Creating space for risk begins at the top of any school system and filters down from principals and administrators to teachers and their students.



## 5. Speak Their Language

Talk to your students about their friends, their hobbies, and the music they like. The more you know about what motivates them outside the classroom, the better you'll be at keeping them engaged inside the classroom.

## 6. Give Them a Choice



Students don't have much of a choice when it comes to WHAT they learn, but you can empower them to choose HOW they learn. With DreamBox, students choose the lessons they want to play, and that makes for a more engaging learning experience.

Empower teachers with choice and agency. The [Center on Education Policy](#) found that only 53 percent of teachers believe that their opinions are factored into decision-making at their school. When teachers are given a choice with their professional learning they become positive participants in their professional growth.

## 7. Cut Them a Break



It's important to rest your brain every once in a while, so you can come back energized. In DreamBox, students get brain breaks in the form of nano-games—fun, 15- to 30-second minigames that disappear after they're played.

## 8. Encourage Collaboration and Participation



A message or lesson is received differently from a peer than it is from a teacher. Create small learning groups and assign each member a role, such as time keeper, contributor, or note taker. This way everyone participates.

Empower teachers by establishing Professional Learning Communities (PLC). Creating a district or school-wide PLC gives teachers a chance to meet regularly with colleagues to share their expertise and work collaboratively to improve their skills and the achievement of the students they serve.

## 9. Swap “Sit and Get” with “Think and Do”



Interactive learning empowers students to develop critical thinking skills, tap their own creativity, and explore their own personalized learning pathways. And, it keeps them engaged!

## 10. Set Goals Together



Define and agree upon a goal or objective before you start a lesson, and revisit it throughout the lesson. This structure establishes ownership and builds encouragement early on.

Empower teachers with their own goals for growth. Develop specific and measurable objectives and provide aligned, meaningful, quality professional development resources to help them achieve professional growth.

Motivate your students and empower your educators.

Experience DreamBox today!  
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