

2022

Educating the Whole Student



91% of teachers agree that when schools prioritize whole student learning, students perform better.¹

¹ Gradient Learning Poll 2021

A whole student approach to education is defined by policies, practices, and relationships that ensure each child, in each school, in each community, **is engaged, supported, and challenged.**²

“I like the focus on the whole student. Emotional skills and collaboration are just as important as content for the future of our students.”

High School Teacher,
AK

Two-thirds of parents with school-aged children are concerned about their child’s emotional well-being as a result of the COVID driven disruptions in their learning lives.³

43% are worried that their child is not learning the right skills in school to be successful in the future.⁴

Many schools are responding to this demand for a broader focus on students’ social and emotional needs as well as the development of future-ready skills by redefining their mission, creating learner or graduate profiles to drive planning and accountability, and through new teacher professional learning programs and initiatives that focus on a whole student approach to education.

A whole student approach to education encourages educators to focus on five key characteristics⁵:

- **Healthy Development** (Attachment, Stress Management, Self-Regulation)
- **School Readiness** (Self-Awareness, Social Awareness/Relationship Skills, Executive Functions)
- **Mindsets for Self and School** (Growth Mindset, Self-Efficacy, Sense of Belonging, Relevance of School)
- **Perseverance** (Resilience, Agency, Academic Tenacity)
- **Independence and Sustainability** (Self-Direction, Curiosity, Sense of Purpose)

² [ASCD](#)

³ 2020–21 Speak Up Research Project

⁴ 2020–21 Speak Up Research Project

⁵ [ASCD](#)

What teachers are saying

According to the Gradient Learning Poll, which surveyed 1,418 educators across the country:

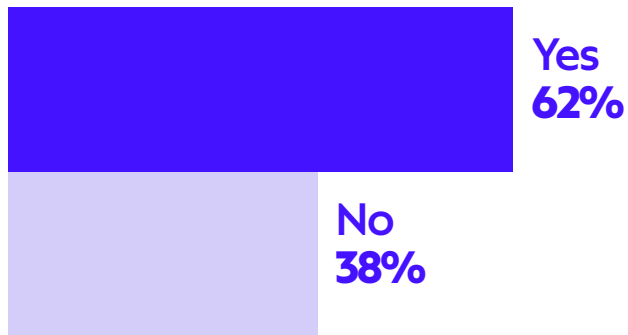
Do schools need to adopt a broader definition of student success to include both academic and non-academic skills?

Yes No



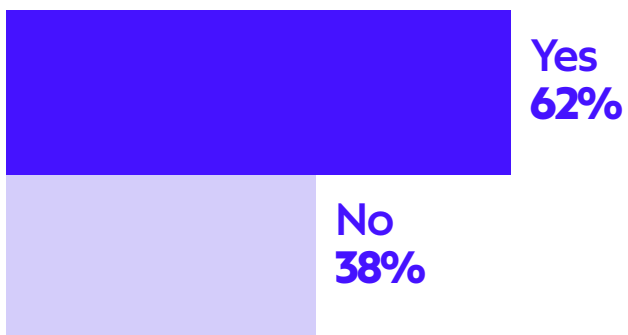
As a result of adopting a whole student approach, are your students taking more ownership of their learning?

Yes No



With a whole student approach, are your students more comfortable asking for help?

Yes No



“Students don’t just come to school to take a test. They come to school to learn, work as a team, and build life skills. There’s no better feeling than knowing you’re meeting the needs of all your students.”

Director of Elementary Learning,
CO

gradient learning poll

About the Gradient Learning Poll

The Gradient Learning Poll is conducted in partnership with [Project Tomorrow](#), a nationally recognized, education nonprofit organization with a focus on understanding the impact of new learning models and interventions on student outcomes and teacher effectiveness. In Spring 2021, the Gradient Learning Poll conducted an online survey of 1,418 teachers and school leaders across the country to better understand their views on the state of education.

To learn more about our findings on topics that impact education, please visit [Gradient Learning](#).

Thank you