

I-1: Convince students that hard work leads to success (“I Can”)

Make Progress Transparent with Charts and Graphs

Students need to see the effects of their hard work. Virtually all teachers who succeed in developing students’ rational understanding that they can achieve if they work hard use charts and graphs to concretely quantify and illustrate growth. They track students’ performance (E-6) using carefully documented data to change students’ mindsets about their own potential.

For most students, clear and graphic illustrations of their own improvement lead to mind-altering revelations about their ability to achieve academically. Teachers often document some (though rarely all) of the following:

- Individual mastery
- Whole class mastery
- Pre- and Post- unit mastery
- Unit by unit mastery
- Standards mastery
- Class mastery comparisons
- Homework completion
- Quiz scores
- Class attendance

Whatever system they use, successful teachers focus their students’ attention on improvement over time so students see the dramatic gains they make throughout the year. Consider the following five strategies and approaches:

1. Track/graph individual student and class achievement over time so students can tangibly see their learning growth

Use individual and class tracking sheets to enable students to see the results of their hard work. There are two approaches to this strategy that teachers take:

Student-Centered	Teacher-Centered
<p>Students create their own charts and graphs. Students actively reflect on their progress. Students internalize awareness of their own performance levels and progress.</p>	<p>Teacher creates the charts and graphs and shares results with the students. Teacher manages all performance data. Student involvement is passive.</p>

Aim for student-centered approaches whenever possible. Time and age considerations may lead to the need for occasional teacher-centered elements.

2. Have students track and quantify their own effort and demonstrate correlation between effort and results

Have students record both the amount of time they spend on their homework for a given week, and the grades they receive on those assignments. Then instruct them to chart their results from week to week, and discuss the results so that they can graphically begin to see the relationship between hard work and achievement.