



ORGANIZATIONAL GROWTH, INC

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STRATEGIES TO HELP BOYS SUCCEED ACADEMICALLY

AND SOCIALLY IN SCHOOL

Developed by Nate Terrell, LCSW, and Anita Foeman, Ph.D.

- 1) Maximize opportunities for boys to move around both while they are learning and during specific activity periods to provide an outlet for their energy.
- 2) Draw on the competitive energy of boys by allowing them to work in small teams to complete academic assignments, debate compelling issues, brainstorm solutions to challenging problems, etc.
- 3) When possible, allow students to use computers and the internet to take notes, complete assignments, develop presentations, etc.
- 4) Incorporate visual educational approaches such as diagrams, graphs, videos, etc. as much as possible.
- 5) Maximize the use of experiential learning to keep all students stimulated and engaged.
- 6) Provide students with something to do with their hands such as squeezing nerf balls, arranging dominoes, etc. to absorb their excess energy.
- 7) Assign boys books or other reading materials which they find interesting, exciting, etc. or allow them to choose what they want to read.
- 8) Invite successful men to share their wisdom with students either in assemblies or within the classroom setting.
- 9) Do everything possible to make school relevant to boys by incorporating their feedback, discussing topics of interest to them, etc.
- 10) Mobilize a group of high achieving boys to meet on a regular basis and conduct activities which promote academic achievement such as student run assemblies to discuss the importance of doing well academically, tutoring groups for under achieving boys, etc.
- 11) Help boys use school to identify and pursue their passions.
- 12) Provide students with opportunities to learn about and experience how to make money through entrepreneurial activities such as selling items within the school, serving as apprentices in local businesses, etc.
- 13) Understand the strengths and challenges of boys rather than simply viewing them as “defective” girls.
- 14) Recognize and respond with sensitivity to the emotional needs of boys. Be careful to never “shame” them because this causes boys to shut down.

15) Take advantage of every “teachable moment” help boys learn that “real men” are sensitive to others, able to express their vulnerability, not afraid to ask for help, etc.

16) Teach boys that they do not have to choose between being “hard” or “soft” and that they can become “fierce gentlemen” and gain a sense of “integrity” through doing the right thing, developing a genuine sense of self-esteem, always being fair, becoming their best selves, etc.

17) Appeal to the desire of boys to be heroic by teaching them strategies they can use to protect victims of bullying, take care of others, provide positive leadership in challenging situations, stand up for what they believe in, etc.

18) Teach boys that academic achievement is “cool” and to understand how it will help them make money, become successful and reach their goals

