



# EDUCATIONAL ENGAGEMENT + SUBSTANCE USE

SUMN.org FACT SHEET

2018

## Educational Engagement

### Definition

Educational engagement encompasses behavioral, emotional, and cognitive engagement. A measure of educational engagement from the Child Trends Flourishing Children Project was adapted for the 2016 Minnesota Student Survey. Minnesota students responded to the following items:

- How often do you care about doing well in school?
- How often do you pay attention in class?
- How often do you go to class unprepared?
- If something interests me, I try to learn more about it.
- I think the things I learn at school are useful.
- Being a student is one of the most important parts of who I am.

Response options for the first three items range from “all of the time” to “none of the time;” response options for the next three items range from “strongly agree” to “strongly disagree.” All were measured on a four-point scale, with the most positive response receiving a four. Students who scored three or higher on *each item* are considered to have a higher level of educational engagement.

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*For more information on alcohol, tobacco, and other drug use, consequences, contributing factors, and treatment, as well as mental health data, visit **SUMN.org***

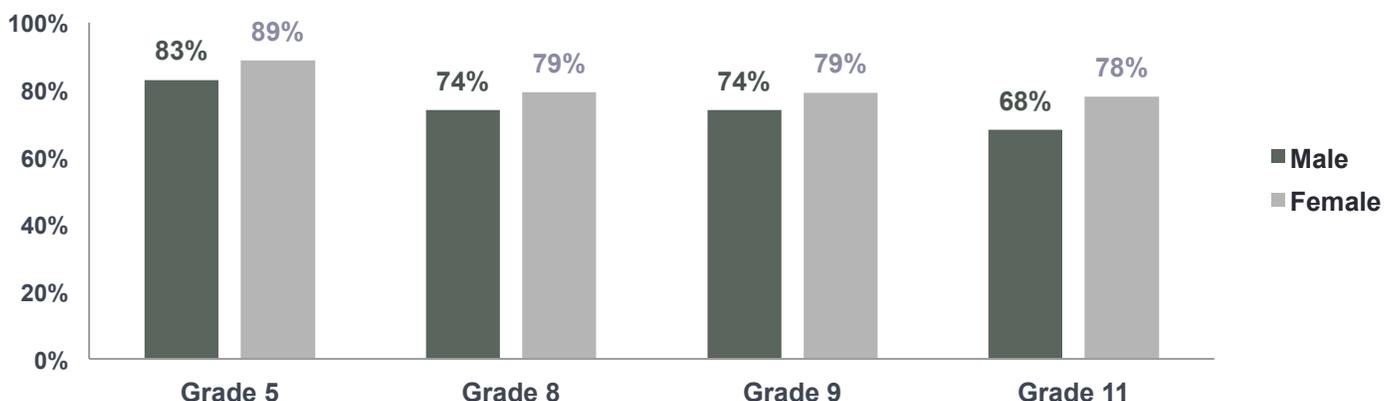
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### Levels of Engagement

According to the 2016 Minnesota Student Survey (MSS):

- Almost 8 out of every 10 students reported higher levels of educational engagement
- Female students are more likely than males to report higher engagement
- Levels of education engagement decrease by grade level for male students

Students with Higher Levels of Educational Engagement, by Grade and Sex, 2016 MSS

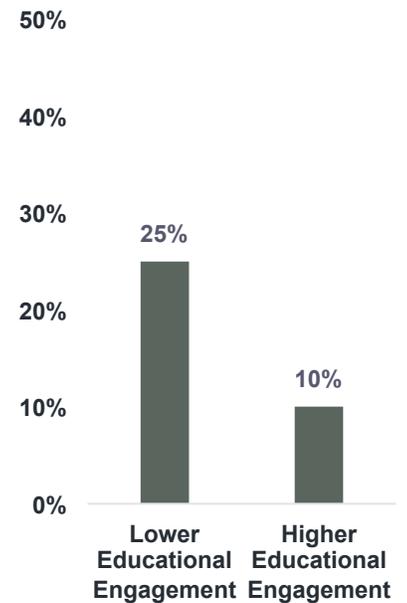


## Protection against Substance Use

Higher levels of educational engagement are associated with lower levels of alcohol and other drug use. Additionally, protective factors such as educational engagement can help buffer against substance use risk factors such as bullying victimization or living with someone who drinks too much alcohol.

## Substance Use

- Students with higher levels of educational engagement are 2.5 times less likely to report past-month alcohol use (see graph)
- Students are 3.2 times less likely to have used marijuana in the past month if they have higher levels of educational engagement: 6% vs. 18%.
- Similarly, students with high educational engagement are 3.0 times less likely to have used tobacco or nicotine products: 9% vs. 26%.



## Buffering Risk

- Students who are victims of bullying or harassment are at greater risk for substance use. However, among Minnesota students who reported being bullied or harassed at least once in the past month, those with higher levels of educational engagement were less likely to report any past-month alcohol use compared to victims with lower levels of engagement: 14% vs. 30%. The same is true for past-month marijuana use (7% vs. 21%).
- Similarly, youth who report living with someone who drinks too much alcohol are at greater risk for drinking themselves. Among Minnesota students who report living with someone who drinks too much, those with higher levels of educational engagement were less likely to report any past-month alcohol use compared to those with lower levels: 23% vs. 43%.

## State Epidemiological Outcomes Workgroup

Minnesota's SEOW has been monitoring substance abuse trends since 2007. The Workgroup helps guide prevention planning at the state level, and provides training and technical assistance to communities. In, 2008 the SEOW launched the Substance Use in Minnesota (SUMN) website to ensure quick and easy access to data for prevention professionals.

## SUMN.org

SUMN is a one-stop-shop for data, tools, and prevention resources. Visitors can search county, regional, and state level data by topic, by location, and by demographic producing tables, charts, graphs, and maps. View and download data products, such as this fact sheet, and find tips on finding, analyzing, translating, using, and disseminating data.

## Contact Us

For questions or more information regarding the State Epidemiological Outcomes Workgroup or SUMN.org, please email: [info@sumn.org](mailto:info@sumn.org)

To contact the Regional Prevention Coordinator for your region, please visit: [www.rpcmn.org](http://www.rpcmn.org)

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