



## Connection vs. Compliance Observational Tip Sheet

### The A, B, C's and 1, 2, 3's of Connection-based Learning Environments and Interactions

Directions: When observing classroom or other interactions or engagement opportunities, ask yourself whether the following connection-based principles are in place:

#### A - Attentiveness & Asking

1. Attending to students' or others' behaviors and needs from an asset-based lens
2. Asking open ended questions to stimulate students' or others' critical thinking and executive functioning skills, as opposed to giving directives or getting into power struggles
3. Attending to the answers to open-ended questions, by asking more open-ended questions to demonstrate care and/or concern, and to keep the conversation going

#### B - Belonging

1. Belonging through acceptance
2. Belonging through inclusion
3. Belonging through identity acknowledgement

#### C - Connection

1. Connection through knowing each student or learner by name
2. Connection through empathizing with students' or others' life experiences and circumstances
3. Connection through listening deeply, and mirroring what the other person said before responding