



COMPACT TOOL #6:

GETTING INPUT FROM STUDENTS

The 6th Step to Success is “Don’t forget the students!” In developing compacts, we need to hear what students have to say. What responsibility do they need to take to become successful students who produce work they can be proud of? And what support do they think will be helpful from their teachers and parents?

This tool has two parts:

1. A sample 5th grade student survey (on the next page), which you can modify according to the skills students are developing in your grade and school. This can be filled out in class or at home, so that students can reflect on their strengths and challenges, as well as what help would be useful to them.
2. A short guide (below) for a classroom discussion of these same points. The main points of this discussion can be the basis of the student section of your grade-level Compact.

Class discussion questions:

After your students have filled out the survey and thought about their responses, ask the whole class this series of questions:

- What do you need to do this year to make sure you learn what you need to know and do your best work, work you can really be proud of?
- What would you like your teacher(s) to do to help you do your best work?
- What would you like your parent(s) to do to help you do your best work?

Chart their ideas as students speak, so they can see their responses are being recorded. If students know their ideas will be included in the School-Family Compact, they will take these questions seriously and show some real insight.



Sample Survey on Student Learning (5th Grade)

Your Name: _____

Reading

- Choosing to read independently
- Reading for a variety of purposes
- Using different strategies to gain meaning
- Writing open-ended responses
- Learning new vocabulary
- Figuring out words I don't know
- Answering questions well

I have worked hard at:

Areas I need to work on:

My plan is:

How my teacher can help:

How my family can help:

Writing

- Writing short answer responses
- Focusing on the topic
- Elaborating
- Using neat handwriting
- Learning new vocabulary
- Figuring out words I don't know
- Answering questions well

I have worked hard at:

Areas I need to work on:

My plan is:

How my teacher can help:

How my family can help:

Math

- Basic math facts
- Place value
- Estimation and rounding
- Measurement
- Elapsed time
- Graphing

I have worked hard at:

Areas I need to work on:

My plan is:

How my teacher can help:

How my family can help:



Social Studies and Science	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Citizenship in school • Using good decision-making skills • Map skills • Comparing and contrasting cultures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigating and recording observations • Analyzing and communicating findings • Researching further information • Designing an investigation
I have worked hard at:	
Areas I need to work on:	
My plan is:	
How my teacher can help:	
How my family can help:	

Personal and Social Development	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interacting well with others • Assuming responsibility • Demonstrating self-confidence • Speaking clearly and effectively 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Listening and paying attention • Using self-control • Participating • Accepting constructive criticism • Setting appropriate goals
I have worked hard at:	
Areas I need to work on:	
My plan is:	
How my teacher can help:	
How my family can help:	

Work Habits	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Following directions the first time • Being organized • Working well independently • Working well cooperatively 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Using reference materials • Using class time constructively • Checking work for neatness and accuracy • Completing assignments on time
I have worked hard at:	
Areas I need to work on:	
My plan is:	
How my teacher can help:	
How my family can help:	