Engageli for High School (Grades 9-12)

Best Practices for Online Classrooms

High school students face unique challenges in online learning. Many struggle with distractions and screen fatigue, which can make it difficult for students to stay focused.

Engageli provides an interactive, structured environment designed to mitigate these challenges. This guide outlines best practices for using Engageli with high school students.
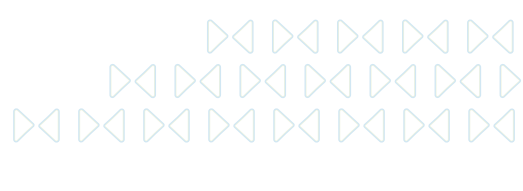
Fully utilize Engageli's collaborative workspaces

High school students benefit from structured yet flexible collaboration that mimics real-world teamwork. Engageli's table groups and collaborative documents allow for long-term, organized group work.

Use Engageli tables for collaborative learning

Assign students to tables and encourage them to collaborate on structured tasks before whole-class discussions. Keep consistent table groups for long-term projects throughout the semester to build teamwork and accountability.

> **Example:** Each table represents a research team that collaborates on assignments and discussions all semester.

Create and load collaborative documents for each table

Set up a shared document for each table where students can brainstorm, take notes, and complete projects together. Students can continuously build upon their work in one document rather than creating new files each time, creating a running document of their studies.

> **Example:** Each table will create a shared study guide for the unit, updating it after each lesson.

Encourage asynchronous collaboration

Using Engageli's playback rooms, students can review past class recordings to catch up on missed lessons. If students are absent from a live session, they should still contribute to their table's collaborative document before the next class.

Promote student autonomy and leadership

High schoolers need opportunities to take ownership of their learning. Engageli supports self-directed learning and leadership roles.

- **Set professional expectations for online behavior.** At the start of the semester, outline clear guidelines for participation and respect.
  - **Example:** "Use chat for class discussions only. Off-topic or inappropriate messages will result in a warning."
- **Assign table leaders for group tasks.** Rotate leadership each class session to build responsibility, collaboration, and public speaking skills.
  - **Example:** Each week, a different student guides the discussion at their table and shares takeaways to the wider class using the Engageli podium.

- **Encourage student-led discussions and presentations.** Let students take charge of instructing an activity or presenting their findings.
  - **Example:** One student is promoted to a class specialist to run a team-building activity.
- **Use Engageli's panel feature for peer teaching.** Allow students to present from the panel while classmates engage through chat and reactions.
  - **Example:** Students in a debate will take turns presenting arguments while others use chat to provide counterpoints.

Structure participation for meaningful engagement

While high schoolers value independence, structured participation ensures everyone contributes.

Monitor and encourage active participation

Regularly check who is most and least engaged and adjust strategies accordingly. If a student's engagement is low, follow up with them privately. For example: "Hey Alex, everything okay? Need any help?"

Another helpful strategy for re-engaging passive learners is direct involvement. If a student is disengaged, call on them with an approachable question. For example: "Sarah, what do you think about the point your tablemate just made?"

Encourage non-verbal participation

Provide multiple ways for students to participate. Recognize that some students may not feel comfortable speaking on camera. If the school allows, provide the option for students to occasionally turn off their video.

Use directed chat prompts, polls, reactions, Q&A threads, and collaborative documents to give students varied options for engagement. For example, if students are hesitant to speak, prompt them to respond in chat or with reactions, "If you disagree with this statement, write a brief sentence explaining your reasoning in chat."

Use polls and reactions for quick check-ins

Use Engageli's quick polls and emoji reactions to quickly gauge understanding and encourage student input. Review responses in real-time and address misconceptions.

Incorporate structured peer feedback

Assign peer review sessions where students comment on each other's work in shared documents.

Example: Each table will review another group's project draft and provide constructive feedback in the comments.

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Incorporate instructional strategies that support differentiated learning

High school students have varying learning needs, so it is important to provide differentiated instruction to ensure all students are engaged and supported.

Create adaptive grouping for students who need extra support

Adjust table assignments periodically to pair struggling students with those who can offer peer support.

> **Example:** Rotate students through different groups based on their strengths in specific subjects.

Offer self-paced assignments for advanced learners

Offer optional enrichment projects for students who complete tasks ahead of schedule.

> **Example:** Provide independent research opportunities for students who finish their work early. Place them in separate table groups to allow students who are still working to collaborate.

Incorporate videos into lessons

Short, engaging videos can reinforce concepts visually and cater to different learning styles. Add them to your classroom slides to introduce new topics or scaffold learning.

Allow students to set personal learning goals

Encourage students to define their own success criteria and track progress.

> **Example:** Have students create a personal learning plan at the beginning of the semester. They can keep a running track of their goals in the Engageli notes tab.

Recognize and celebrate progress

Provide feedback and celebrate student achievements to maintain motivation.

> **Example:** Acknowledge participation milestones with shout-outs or small incentives.

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Engageli helps high school students develop essential collaboration, communication, and digital literacy skills — all while making online learning interactive and engaging.