



# Harnessing heads, hearts and hands for 21st Century Learning

## **...transforming classrooms for adolescent learners**

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# Learning in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

- Learning to know and use one's mind well;
- Being able to create and “do things” with what one knows;
- Mobilizing cognitive, practical skills, creative abilities, and psycho-social resources to solve problems, invent, and innovate.

*‘Learning is a resource for living’*



The challenge is..

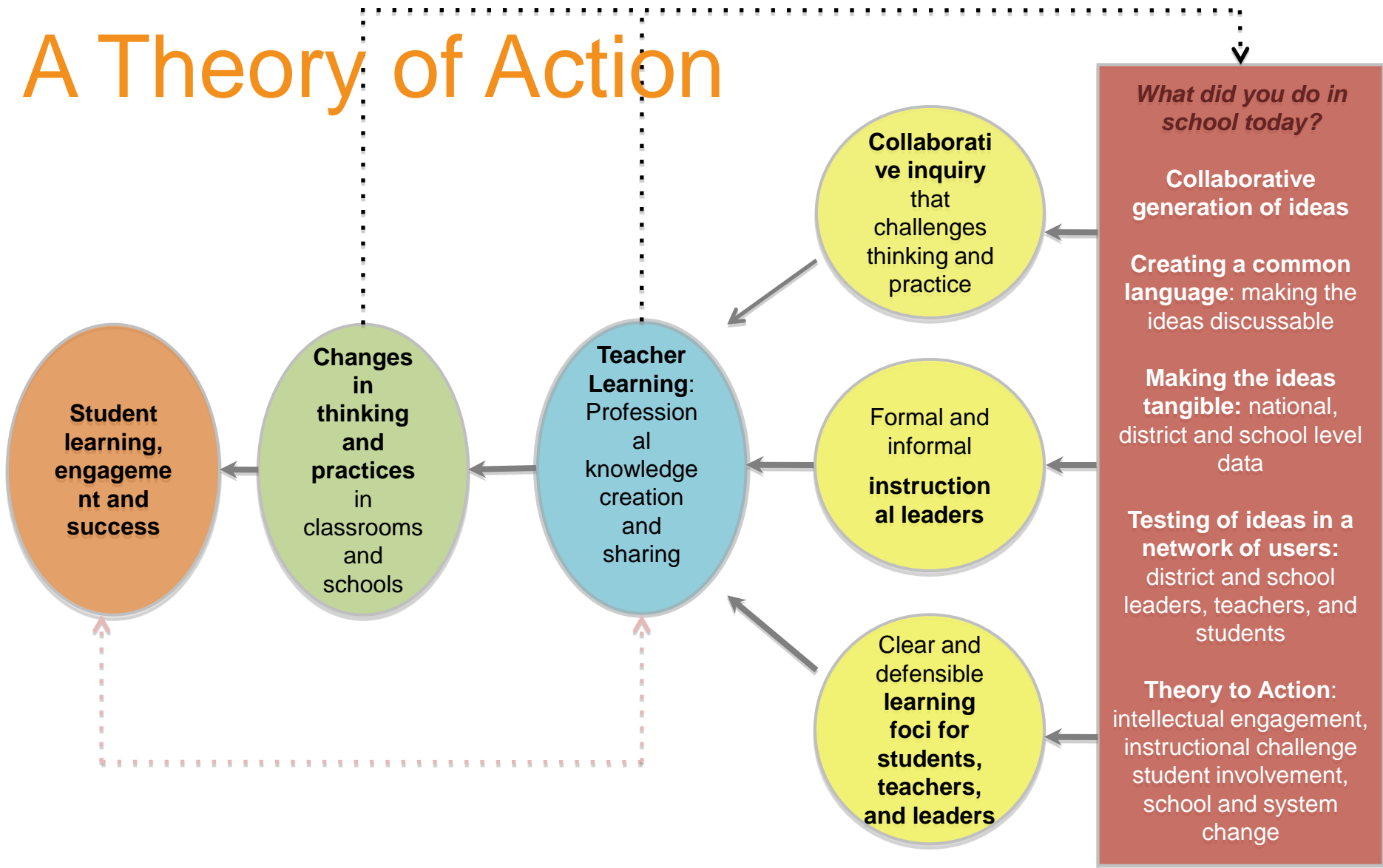
To sort all students *into* learning rather than sorting them out!



# A research and development initiative

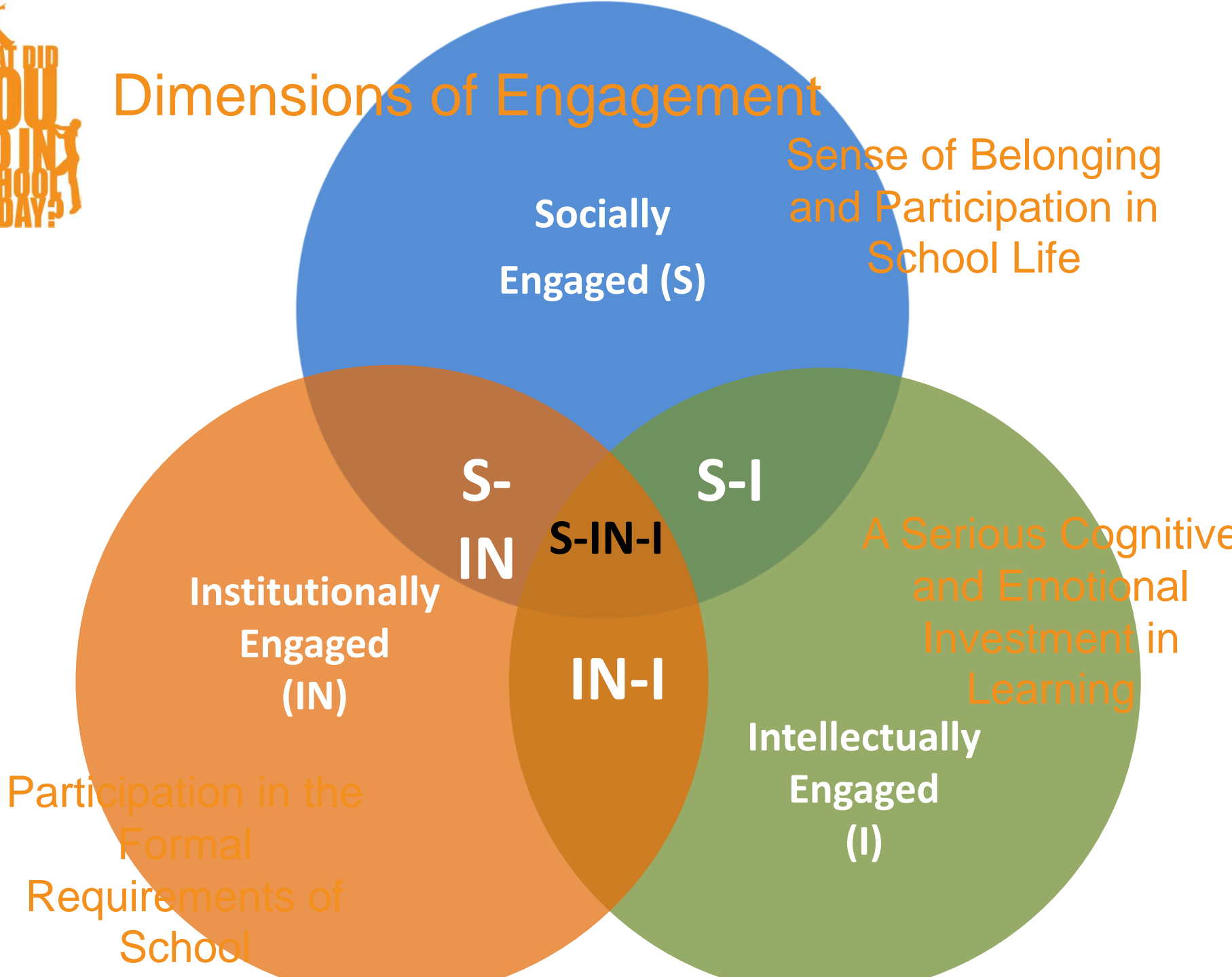
- 17 school districts
- 140 middle and secondary schools
- 50,000 students

# A Theory of Action



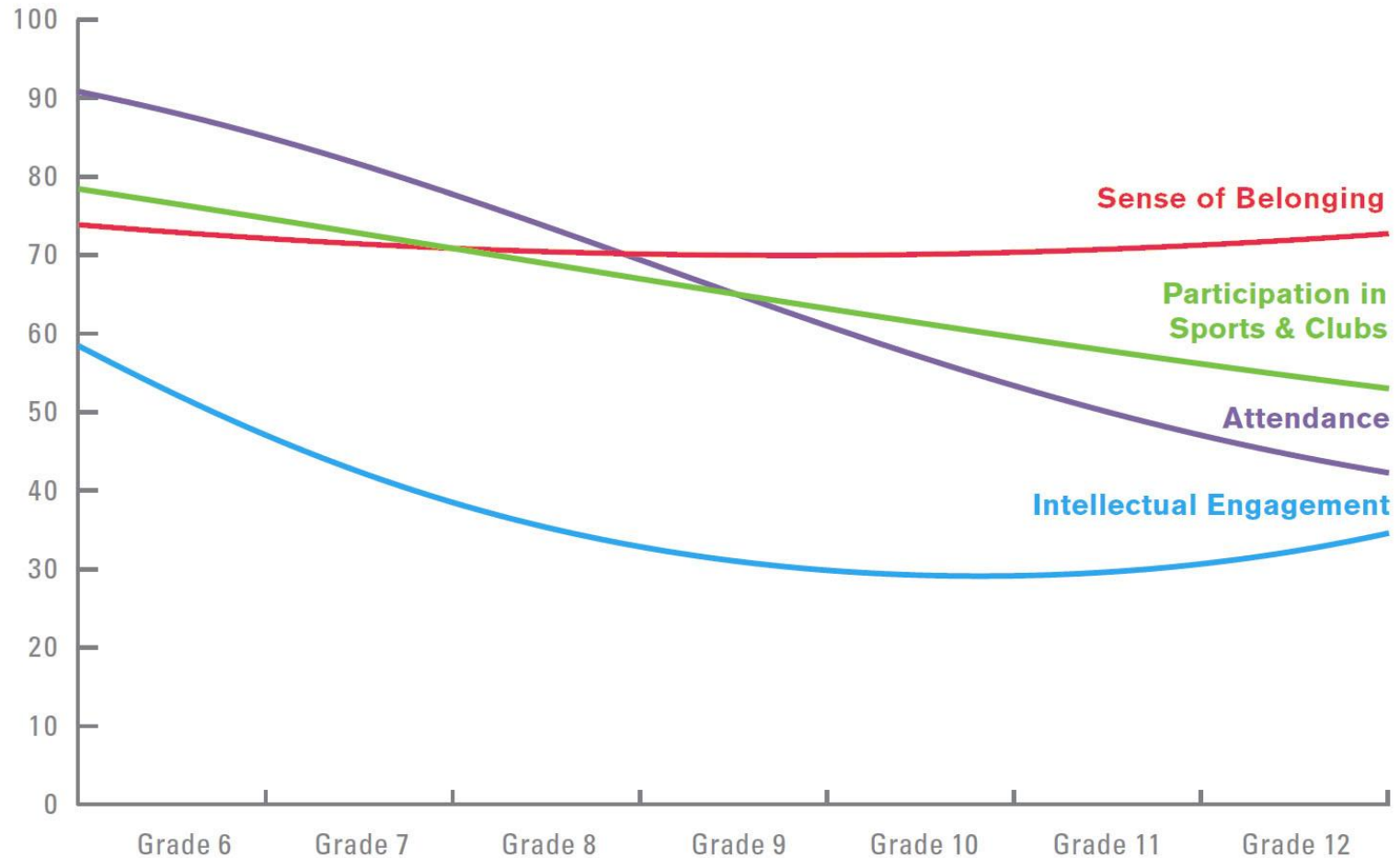


# Dimensions of Engagement



## Engagement declines ...

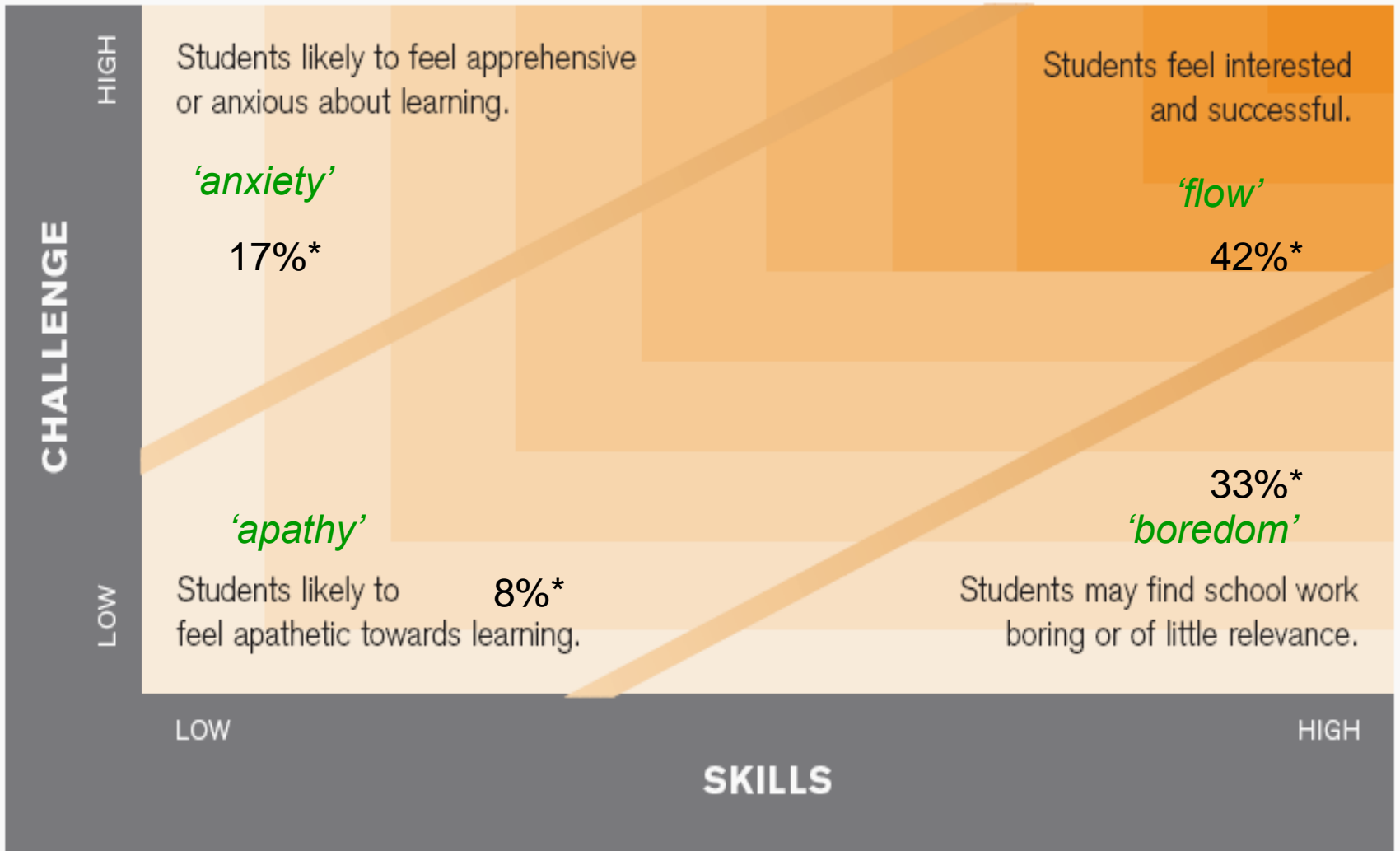
Percentage of Students



Transforming classrooms through social, academic and intellectual engagement Willms, J. D., Friesen, S. & Milton, P. (2009). What did you do in school today? Transforming classrooms through social, academic, and intellectual engagement. (First National Report) Toronto: Canadian Education Association.



# Instructional Challenge



\* Middle school grades, Language Arts



CEA



ACE



# Harnessing head, heart and hands for learning

to achieve deep engagement in learning across all subject areas, student abilities and aspirations requires *new assumptions* about:

- Ability, achievement and potential
  - Theory and theory applied
  - The purpose of schooling





The work we ask students to do needs  
to be ...

real

meaningful

challenging

conceptual

experiential

collaborative

and supported by relationships that are marked by  
reciprocity and generosity.



# We need to think about...

*The 'offer': intellectual engagement (deep learning) occurs across all curriculum domains, student abilities and aspirations.*

- What assumptions, ideas, policies do these ideas challenge?
- What's the 'offer' in these ideas for me?
- What do these ideas imply for future direction?
- What can we do with them now?