

Connection Without Lowering the Bar

Students can hear “I care about you” and “This is not good enough yet” from the same teacher.

Connection is not:

Saying yes to everything · avoiding consequences · making excuses · removing productive struggle · pretending incomplete work is complete.

Where might I be lowering an expectation because conflict feels easier to avoid?

Where might a student hear correction but not yet feel the belief underneath it?

What support would help this student reach the expectation without removing the expectation?

What will I say or do so the student experiences both the expectation and my belief in them?

Keep the bar. Make sure there is a human being standing beside the student while they try to reach it.
