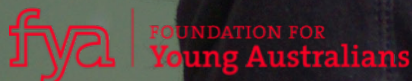


*Building Futures for  
Young Australians:*

Australian Research Council  
national research project led  
by University of Melbourne  
with six linkage partners:



# NEW NATIONAL FRAMEWORK

measuring what works to  
keep kids engaged at school



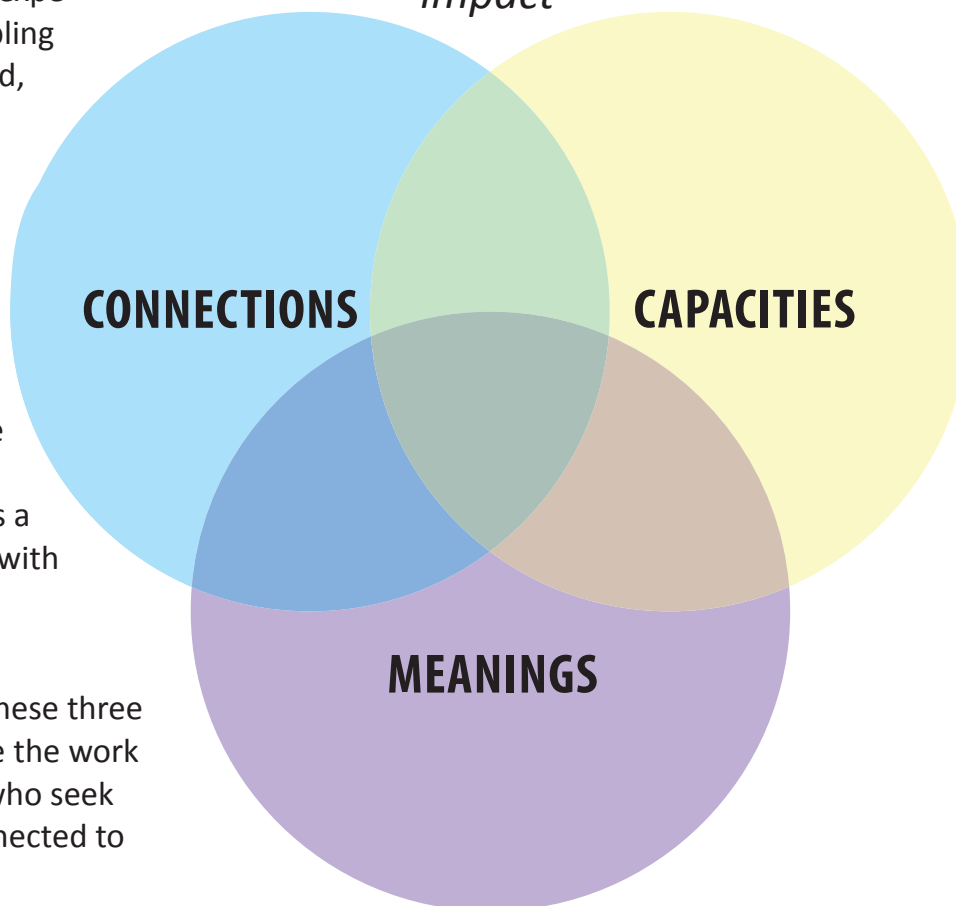
# ENABLING SPACES and the CCM FRAMEWORK

Most young people school find school an enabling space that will facilitate their successful journey through life. But many others experience school as almost a disabling space where they feel alienated, stressed, and/or resentful.

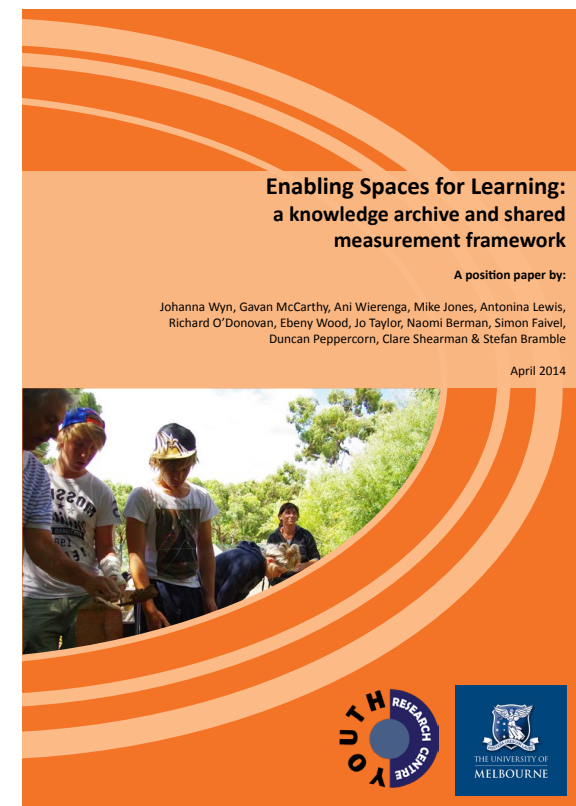
The Building Futures for Young Australians project is a cutting edge Australian Research Council initiative that explores the concept of **Enabling Spaces**, and has developed the **Connections, Capacities, and Meanings** (CCM) framework as a way of measuring what works with vulnerable young people.

The research has shown that these three factors can be used to describe the work and impacts of organisations who seek to help young people stay connected to school.

*CCM provides a way to for  
organisation to measure their  
work, pool data, and assess their  
impact*



*CCM makes it possible to measure what  
matters and for organisations to **see** their  
work in the data they collect*



*"We need to know about more  
than school attendance and ac-  
ademic grades if we are to meet  
young people's needs."*

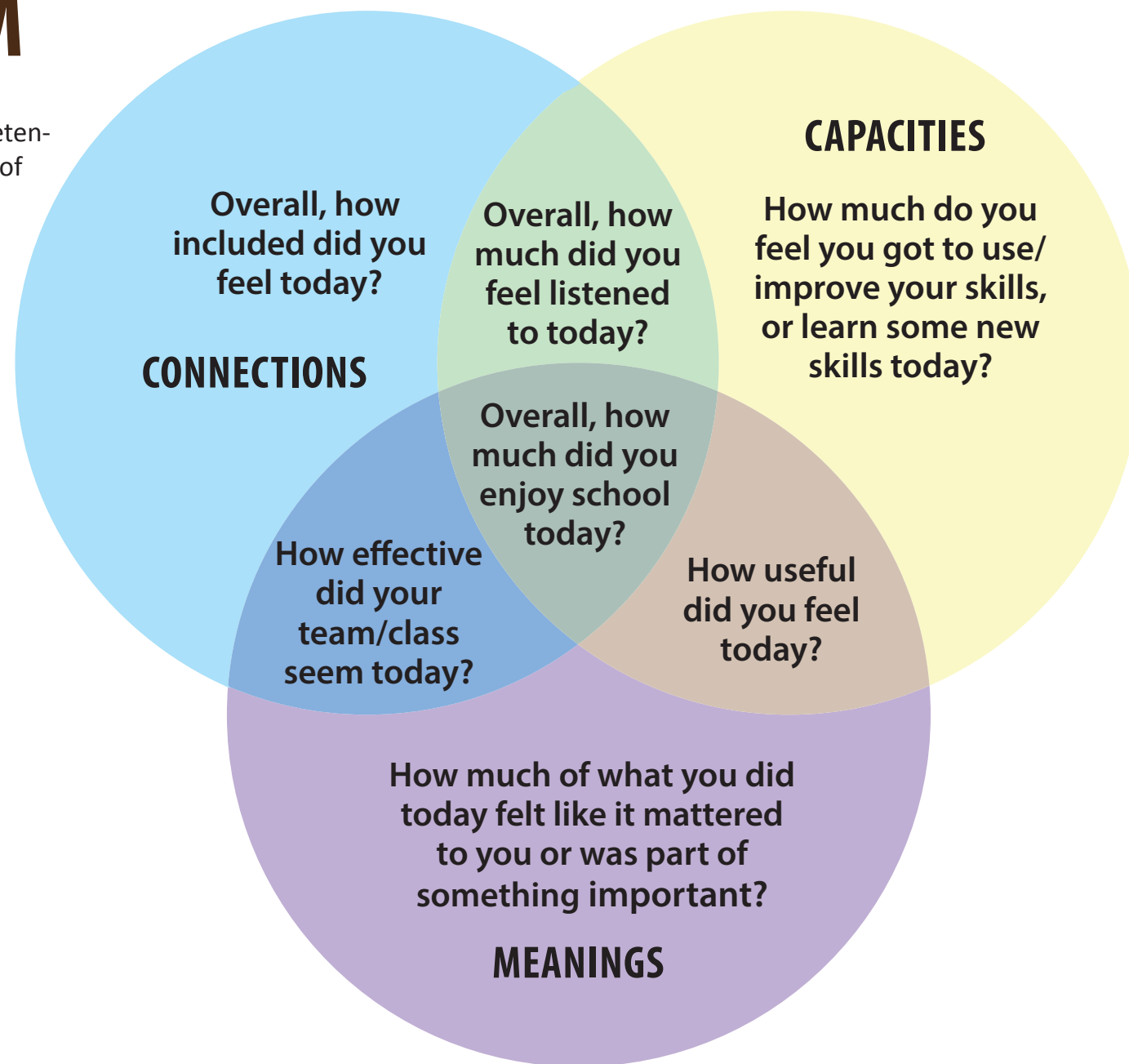
Professor Johanna Wyn,  
Director Youth Research Centre,  
The University of Melbourne

# HOL and CCM

Although important, attendance and retention tell us very little about the quality of student experience.

Hands On Learning Australia wanted direct feedback from kids that could capture the impact of HOL compared to non-HOL kids

We used CCM to frame a set of questions that could be put to all students which could show any impact HOL has on kids, and provide valuable feedback as part of our reflective practice.





# HOL SURVEY

## Non-HOL kids

- 3 Schools
- All kids across Years 7-12
- At the end of every day for a week
- Got ~3,500 responses

## HOL kids

- Over 20 different schools so far
- All HOL kids
- At the end of their HOL day over two weeks
- Collected ~550 responses to date

## Results

- HOL kids reported dramatically better responses - at statistically significant levels ( $p < 0.001$ ), on all seven measures
- Practitioners are able to use student feedback to identify areas they can improve (e.g. ensuring students feel listened to)
- We are now exploring technological solutions to obtaining regular feedback from kids to leverage even greater benefits



THIS SURVEY IS ANONYMOUS.  
WE JUST WANT YOUR HONEST FEEDBACK.

**Today is:** ☐ Monday ☐ Tuesday ☐ Wednesday ☐ Thursday ☐ Friday

**Gender:** ☐ Male ☐ Female

**Year level:** ☐ Yr 7 ☐ Yr 8 ☐ Yr 9 ☐ Yr 10 ☐ Yr 11 ☐ Yr 12

**How long have you been in HOL?** ☐ 1 year or less ☐ 1-2 years ☐ 2-3 years ☐ 3 years or more

**What are your favourite school subjects?**

☐ Art ☐ Drama ☐ English ☐ Food Tech. ☐ Geography/History ☐ Hands On Learning ☐ IT (Computers, info. Tech.)

☐ Language (French etc.) ☐ Maths ☐ Media ☐ Music ☐ PE/Health ☐ Science ☐ Sport ☐ Visual Communication

☐ Technology (wood, metal, plastics etc.) ☐ Other/s. \_\_\_\_\_

*When answering the following questions, think about your day overall. There are no trick questions, just take the words to mean what they normally mean and COLOUR THE DOT FOR THE ANSWER that best describes your experience of school today:*

**Overall, how included did you feel today?**

- ☐ I felt excluded & alone nearly all day  
☐ I felt mostly alone today  
☐ I felt a mixture of being excluded & included today  
☐ I felt mostly included today  
☐ I felt included nearly all the time today

**Overall, how much did you feel listened to or ignored today?**

- ☐ I felt like nobody listened to me at all today  
☐ I felt mostly ignored today  
☐ I felt a mixture of being listened to & ignored today  
☐ I felt mostly listened to today  
☐ I felt like people listened to me nearly all the time today

**How much do you feel you got to use/improve your skills, or learn some new skills today?**

- ☐ I felt like I didn't use or learn any skills today  
☐ I felt like I used/learned very few skills today  
☐ I used some of my skills today  
☐ I felt like I used and/or improved quite a few skills today  
☐ I felt like I used or improved lots of my skills today or learned some interesting new skills

**Overall, how effective did your class/team feel today, or how much did it seem to achieve?**

- ☐ I felt my class/team wasn't effective at all and achieved nothing today  
☐ I felt my class/team achieved very little today  
☐ I felt my class/team was reasonably effective and achieved some things today  
☐ I felt my class/team was pretty effective and achieved a reasonable amount today  
☐ I felt my class/team was very effective and achieved a lot today

**Overall, how useful did you feel today?**

- ☐ I felt like nearly all of what I did today was useful  
☐ I felt most of what I did today was useful  
☐ I felt like I did some useful things today  
☐ I felt like I did hardly anything useful today  
☐ I felt like I did nothing useful today

**Overall, how much of what you did today felt like it mattered to you, or was part of something important?**

- ☐ Nearly everything I did today mattered to me  
☐ Most of what I did today mattered to me  
☐ Today was a mixture of things that did and didn't matter to me  
☐ Most of what I did today didn't matter to me  
☐ Just about nothing I did today mattered to me

**Overall, how much did you enjoy school today?**

- ☐ I really enjoyed school today  
☐ I mostly enjoyed school today  
☐ Today was OK  
☐ I didn't really enjoy school today  
☐ I didn't enjoy school today at all

**How are things in your life generally?**

- ☐ Things are going great!  
☐ Things are going well for me  
☐ Things are going OK for me at the moment  
☐ Things aren't that good for me at the moment  
☐ Things are terrible for me at the moment

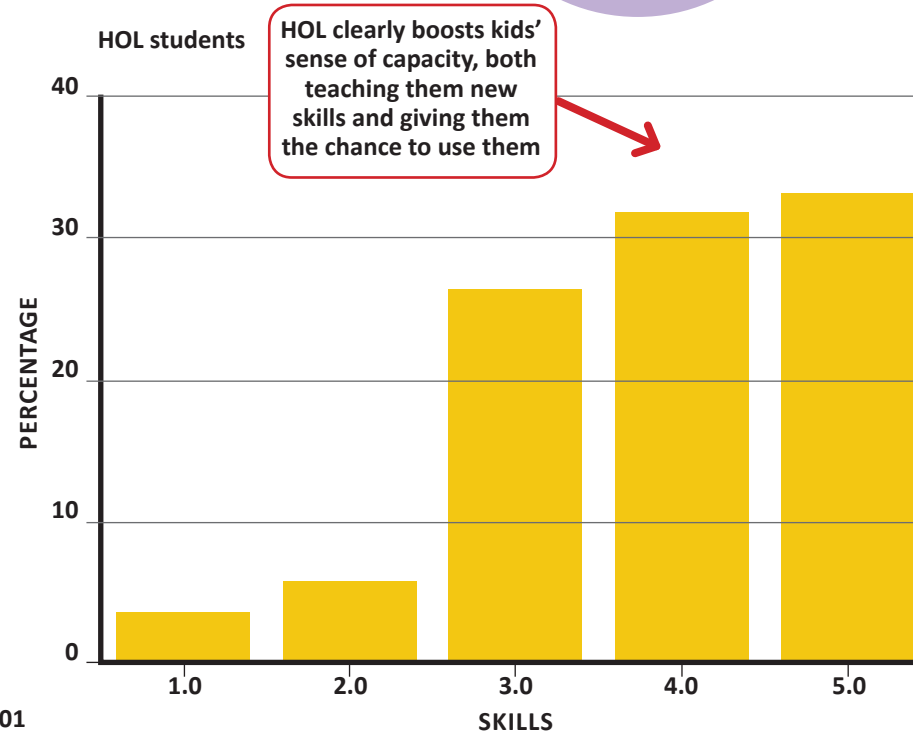
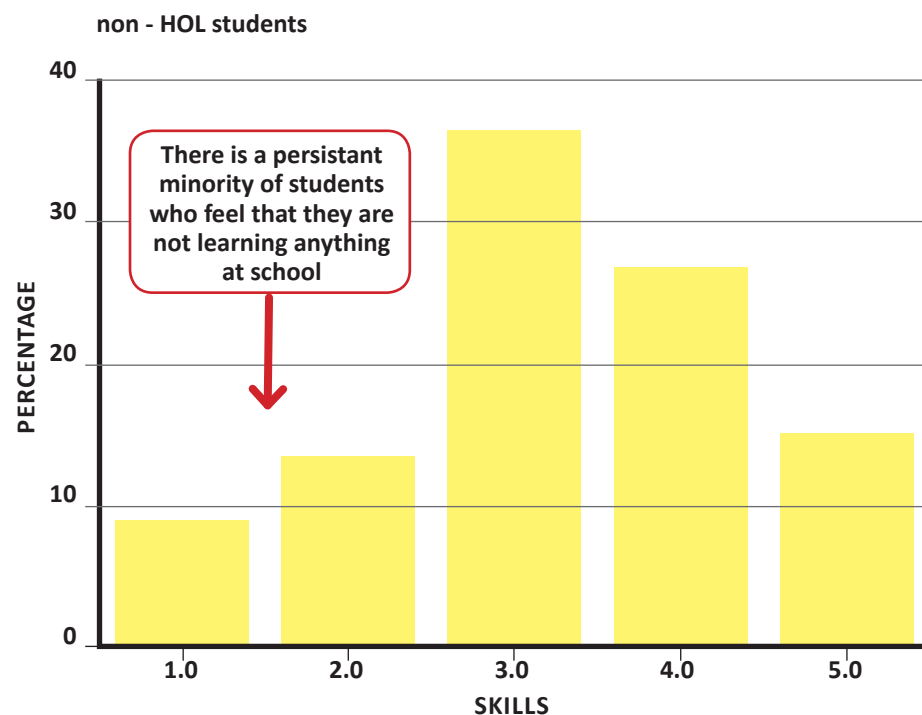
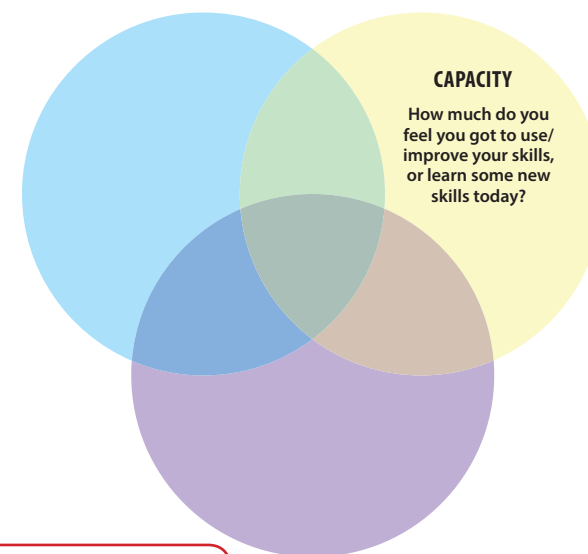
# HOL and CCM – Capacities

How much do you feel you got to use/improve your skills, or learn new skills today?

1. I felt like I didn't use or learn any skills today
2. I felt like I used/learned very few skills today
3. I used some of my skills today
4. I felt like I used and/or improved quite a few skills today
5. I felt like I used or improved lots of my skills today or learned some interesting new skills

The CCM Framework dimension of *Capacities* captures HOL's ability to develop kid's skills.

The feeling that they are not learning anything at school is typical of kids who enter HOL. It is significant (both statistically and otherwise) that the majority feel very differently about HOL.



$p < 0.001$

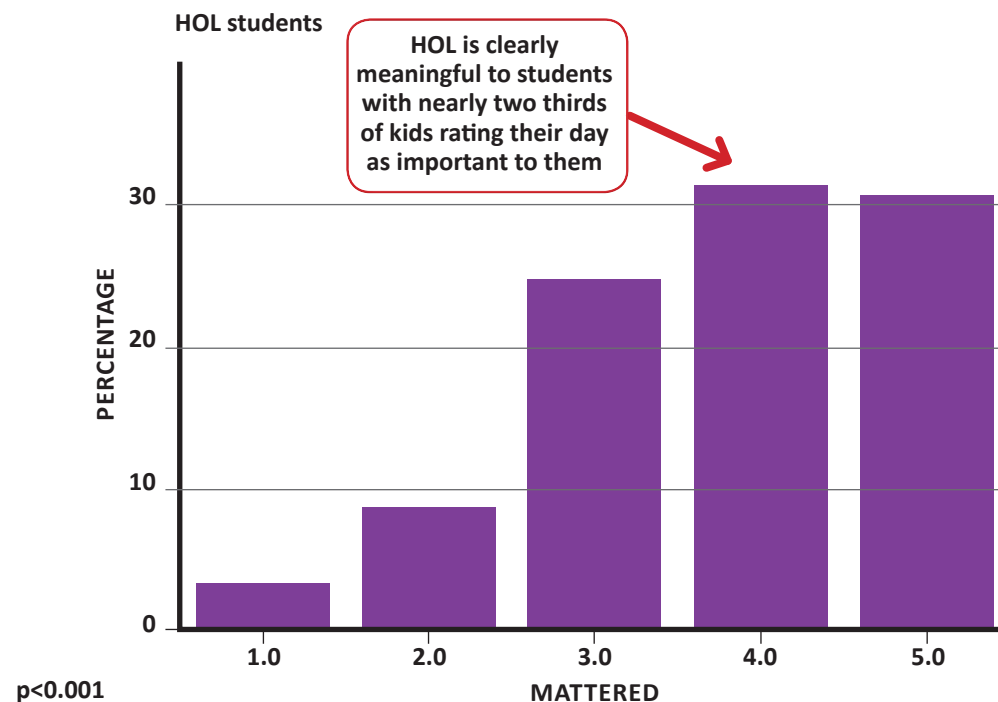
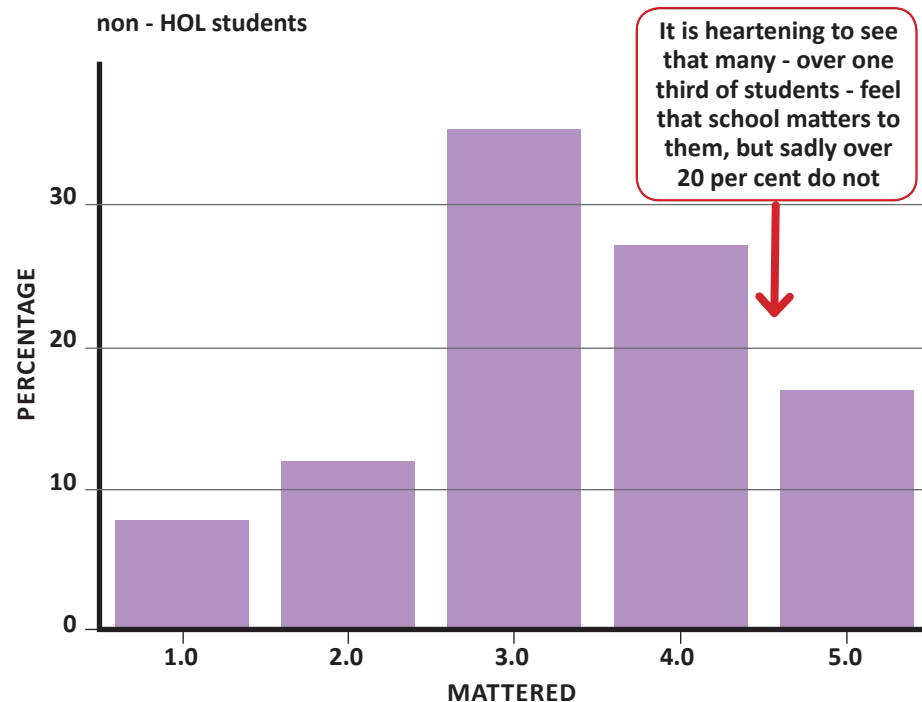
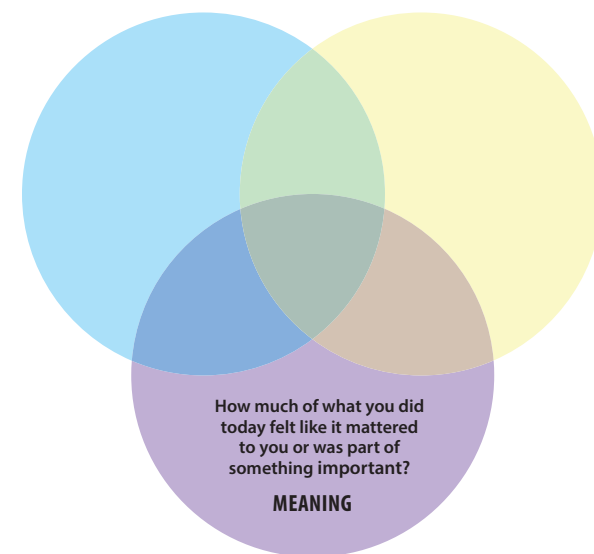
# HOL and CCM – Meanings

Overall, how much of what you did today felt like it mattered to you, or was part of something important?

5. Nearly everything I did today mattered to me
4. Most of what I did today mattered to me
3. Today was a mixture of things that did and didn't matter to me
2. Most of what I did today didn't matter to me
1. Just about nothing I did today mattered to me

The CCM Framework dimension of *Meanings* captures HOL's ability to involve kids in real tasks that are valued by their school, their community.

Kids who find school meaningless clearly derive a benefit from the HOL approach, finding it far more meaningful. And because HOL is part of school, school can start to become more meaningful to them.



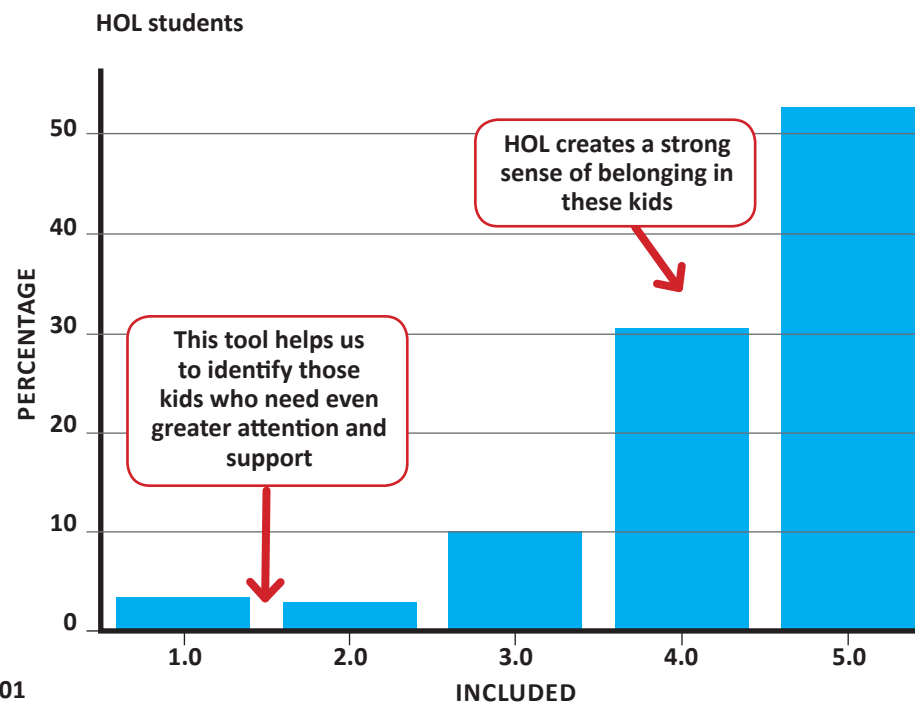
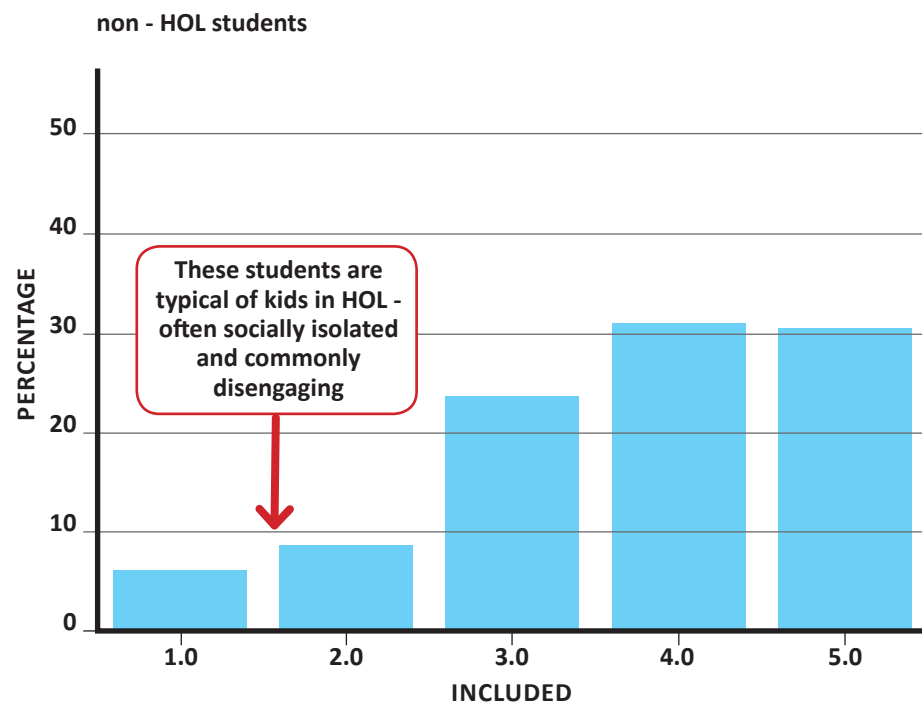
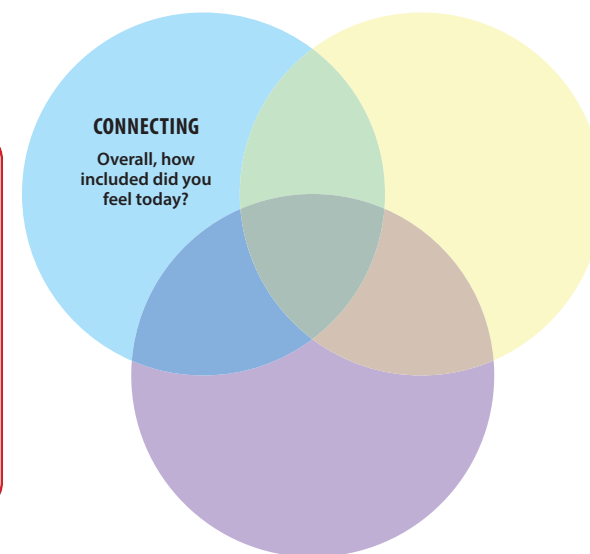
# HOL and CCM - Connecting

Overall, how included did you feel today?

1. I felt excluded & alone nearly all day
2. I felt mostly alone today
3. I felt a mixture of being excluded & included today
4. I felt mostly included today
5. I felt included nearly all the time today

The CCM Framework dimension of *Connecting* captures HOL's central desired outcome of creating a sense of belonging - giving kids somewhere to belong and people to belong to.

The high rates of inclusion shown here demonstrates how HOL dramatically increases alienated kids' sense of belonging.



# HOL and CCM – Enjoyment/happiness

Overall, how much did you enjoy school today?

5. I really enjoyed school today
4. I mostly enjoyed school today
3. Today was OK
2. I didn't really enjoy school today
1. I didn't enjoy school today at all

We believe that at the centre of the CCM Framework lies the notion of happiness and wellbeing. HOL's raison d'être is to build kids' sense of wellbeing through being connected, by developing their capacities, and helping them find meaning.

HOL students are drawn from the cohort of kids who are not enjoying school, so it is quite remarkable that 73% of them had positive experiences. This helps explain why so many will alter negative classroom behaviours in order to stay in HOL.

