**October 2018 Teaching Tip**



Green Light Education
*A new perspective*




# Close Enough For Success

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Sometimes, students simply aren't close enough – to a partner, to their group, or to the screen – to engage in a task effectively. Actively moving them closer often leads to better interactions between students, better focus during discussions, and better understanding.

Make sure your students are close enough to succeed:

**Move towards a partner**. When setting up students to talk with a partner, use the instruction: "Move your chair so you're close together." Without specifically instructing students to make this adjustment, some will remain too far apart for a useful interaction.

**Stand and deliver**. If the size and shape of desks or tables force students too far apart, ask them to stand up and work together without the furniture in the way.

**Cluster group seating**. When students are working in groups, make sure they're sitting close enough so everyone can easily hear.

**Gather them in**. If you ask students to join you at the front of the room to better see a visual, make sure everyone is close enough to see the screen or flip chart clearly. Give the instruction: "Make sure, you can see. Move to the side or stand on a chair if needed."

Being close to other students, to their group, or to the screen increases students' focus on what is happening – and decreases the potential distraction of anything else that might be happening in the room.