

## Student Voice: Understanding the Implications

### Knowing, accepting and acknowledging the strength of working together

The students acknowledged and understood the importance of the support that they received on their journeys to academic success as Māori.

- I've succeeded because I've had the help of others. Doing it on your own is just not easy, so having those others there helping you is essential.
- It's hard not to do well with the support of the teachers and the people around you. They motivate you, and the motivation inspires you to do your best.
- I'd have to say the biggest help in school is probably my mates, because if the teacher explains it to me and I don't understand it, my mates will have my back and explain it to me in a way they know I'll understand and that's always good.
- Having a Māori group in your school is great because you get to know one another, and know more about yourself. They're like a supportive group for everyone in there. They don't laugh at you, like they laugh with you. You're being educated about yourself, about your pepeha, your ancestors, you're able to take that back to your family, spread that knowledge out to friends as well as the wider community.
- Knowing that you've got somebody in your corner who wants you to succeed makes you want to succeed.

#### Activating our own agency by engaging others

*Kaua e rangiruatia te hāpai o te hoe; e kore tō tātou waka e ū ki uta.*

*Do not lift the paddle out of unison or our canoe will never reach the shore*

When we listened to the voices at the Hui Whakaako and later undertook the analysis of the transcripts, it became clear that students understood these themes to be inextricably interrelated. Clear understandings of the complexity of these cultural relationships and how they can play out in practice is foundational work if we are to more effectively respond to what students are telling us about "*Māori students enjoying and achieving education success as Māori*".

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"Knowing, accepting and acknowledging the strength of working together"

Understanding the Implications. <http://kep.org.nz/student-voice/about-the-themes>

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Consider what students are telling us in this and the previous two themes - *Being Able to Contribute to the Success of Others* and *Experiencing the Power of Whanaungatanga*)

- How do these understandings relate to what we are doing at school?

You may wish to watch the [Roopu Tautoko video](#) in the Cultural Identity video kete where a student support group enables enduring teina/tuakana relationship.

Work through the [Mahi Tahī: Making the difference](#) model and make links to the students' perspectives to further develop new praxis within this model.

Try linking other themes and connecting to the Mahi Tahī model to give greater clarity and purpose moving forward.

see: [all student comments on this theme](#)