

Unfortunately, in some American classrooms, intrinsic motivation may be almost completely blocked as teachers are forced to emphasize performance goals such as test scores rather than mastery goals that involve continual improvement and self-discovery. Because of the emphasis on students doing well on every proficiency and achievement test, teachers may fall into the trap of teaching primarily to a student's deficiencies—that is, if a verbally talented child has weaker math skills, a majority of the student's time may be devoted to improving the deficiency rather than developing the area of talent. Over time, the child may become more proficient in math, but his verbal skills may decline, and his motivation will likely take a downward plunge.

It doesn't have to be that way. Required objectives can be mastered by allowing students to reach learning goals by way of their particular interests and passions. Hooking into their interests greatly enhances intrinsic motivation. For instance, while a child completes the course of study required by the school district, she also may select from a list of extension activities that feed her passion and interest. A child who is fascinated by the Renaissance may use that period of history to learn about art, music, mathematics, literature, sociology, medicine, or any number of other subjects. And a child who is intrinsically motivated to learn will learn more and in more depth than one who is concerned only about a grade on a particular test.

### A Quick Look: Intrinsic and Extrinsic Motivation in the Classroom

	<b>Characteristics of the Classroom</b>	<b>Teaching Methods that Promote</b>	<b>Typical Rewards</b>
<b><i>Intrinsic Motivation</i></b>	Students and teachers set learning goals together Enjoyment Challenge Mastery Empowerment	Choice Inquiry Independent study Skill development Hands-on activities Tied to real life Testing assesses learning, mastery of concepts, and self-improvement	Satisfaction Sustained drive toward further learning Confidence Competence, self-determination Teacher praise for interest, effort, and improvement
<b><i>Extrinsic Motivation</i></b>	Teachers set performance goals Uncertainty Dependency Performance and test anxiety	Drill and repetition Memorization Prescribed outcomes Tests, quizzes Worksheets Testing assesses recall of facts	Grades Competitions Gold stars, stickers Honor rolls Teacher praise for performance Postcards to parents Social events