

Risk factor: Negative peer influence / pressure to underperform

Here are some strategies and tools to help alleviate pressure on students and foster a positive learning environment:

1) AGAINST NEGATIVE PEER INFLUENCE

- **Create a sense of community:** foster a sense of belonging and togetherness among your students, through team-building activities, group projects, social events, especially for VET schools, where the events can be relevant for the community where they live.

- **Encourage students' leadership:** give all the students opportunities to take on leadership roles in the classroom and school, helping them to develop important skills like responsibility, team-work and communication.

- **Stimulate a healthy competition among students:** plan work groups to share positive or negative achievements.

2) AGAINST PRESSURE TO UNDERPERFORM

- Encourage students to believe in their abilities to learn and improve.

- Emphasize the importance of hard work and perseverance.

- Positive affirmation: Use positive language to build students' self-esteem and confidence.

- Celebrate successes creating a positive classroom culture where students feel valued and supported.