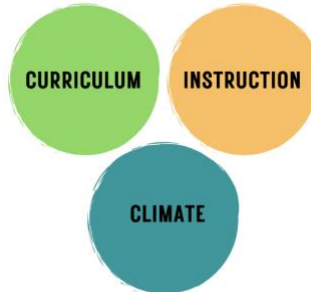


# ACADEMICS AND CLIMATE

For optimal learning, three systems within a school must work in concert: **curriculum, instruction, and climate**. Each is necessary, but not alone sufficient for the best possible learning.



A strong curriculum is standards-based to ensure a scope and sequence that builds on past learning and supports a variety of learning modalities. Teachers with strong instructional skills are competent in the subject matter they teach and have skills to provide an interactive classroom climate to engage all learners.

## THE COMPONENTS OF A SCHOOL CLIMATE THAT SUPPORTS LEARNING

In **emotionally safe climates**, students feel they can be open and vulnerable without fear of disapproval or ridicule.

In **socially safe climates**, students feel secure, cared for, and trusted, and not afraid of being abandoned or misjudged.

In **academically safe climates**, students are not worried about making mistakes and can freely express their opinions and ideas.

Neuroscience defines the optimal learning climate is high in challenge to engage students in active learning and low in threat such that students feel safe.

