Big Idea/ Topic
“I Wish My Teacher Knew”

Standard Alignment
Health Standard 4: Students will demonstrate the ability to use interpersonal communication skills to enhance health and avoid or reduce health risks.

Instructional Design
Define Simply
Introduce students to “I wish my teacher knew” activity by explaining they can either answer anonymously or add their name. This can be something related to academics or their personal life. Decide on a location for students to turn in their card, or this can be an exit activity. Give students thinking time and be available to help with questions.

Model/Demonstrate with Examples
Model an example for students of something “I wish my students’ knew” about yourself. This might be a great opportunity to let students get to know something non-academic about their teacher.

Practice in All Relevant Settings
This activity can be practiced throughout the year with different prompts. Examples may include:
“Someone important to me”
“My favorite place to be,”
“I feel happiest when I”

Monitor & Provide Positive Feedback and Reinforcement
Teachers can reinforce and normalize student sharing by praising students and letting them know how much you want to get to know them individually. By doing this you are communicating that your students matter to you, not just their academic performance, but who they are matter. You are helping students feel valued and appreciated as individuals. For example, “Thank you class for being willing to share. I am looking forward to getting to know each of you throughout this year.”

Based on Data, Adjust Instruction & Reteach
Teachers should monitor how well they know their students. One strategy is to go through your roster at any point throughout the year and mark the names of students whom you do not know their interests or much beyond their academics. You may decide to do another connection-building activity in response to this data, such as a dialogue circle. Additionally, if you want to focus on a few students you don’t know, you can use the 2x10 method, which is to spend 2 minutes, 10 days in a row talking about anything the student wants to talk about. For some students, it may be helpful to ask them to run an errand with you so you can walk and talk; this may help make the conversation more casual.
### Evidence of Student Success
- Student success will be more likely when student and teacher relationships are positive.

### Distance Learning Supports
- This concept can be utilized as an online activity. Students can use the whiteboard or other digital options to respond to the prompts.
- Teachers can meet with students online for the 2x10 strategy.

### Engaging Families
- Calling parents and asking them about their child will help build a relationship with families at the start of school and may give the teacher valuable information about their students. It is recommended to take detailed notes and keep them in a secure location for future reference.