

The term “high expectations” gets thrown around a lot especially by those who don’t stand in front of students day in and day out:

* You must have high expectations for your students.
* High expectations for your students are the key to success.
* Set your expectations to go through the roof.

It is easy to say, but what does it really mean? While the term gets used a lot not only in the classroom but also in the work-place, its true meaning has become somewhat diluted or lost altogether. Most teachers have only the vaguest idea what it means:

* It means asking more of our CTE students, right?
* It means communicating what you want at a higher level.
* It means to push your CTE students to do more to get better.

While these are all good things, they are just the results of having high expectations. They are a part of the target, but not the bullseye. High expectations are not something you pull out of thin air; it doesn’t come from posters. It is definitely not something your principal can bestow upon you, and you are not going to find it in the teacher’s guide.

High expectations develop in you over a lifetime of overcoming obstacles and disappointments. They are the results of your perseverance and grit, as well as the role models who passed them on to you. For those who are new to the teaching profession there are ways to gain experience such as [Great Expectations®](http://www.greatexpectations.org/training)**.**

**In the end, high expectations must be a part of you before it can be a part of your students. So when you say, “You can do this,” or, “This is how we are going to do this,” the students can see that you are in there with them through the end. They need to see that not only have you been there before, but also you know there will be obstacles and will help them overcome them.**

**Take heart. Your fellow CTE teachers who have been teaching for several years may not call it high expectations but they are good at motivating, inspiring and challenging students and are more than willing to help you gain the experience you need to overcome those obstacles so that the students can see the determination and expectations in you.**