

# TIGHT TRANSITIONS

from Teach Like a Champion by Doug Lemov

**HAVING QUICK TRANSITIONS THAT STUDENTS CAN EXECUTE WITHOUT EXTENSIVE NARRATION BY THE TEACHER IS A CRITICAL PIECE OF ANY HIGHLY EFFECTIVE CLASSROOM.**

*Students spend a lot of time in transition—by necessity—and when they're in transition, they are not learning. Every teacher has, at his or her fingertips, an opportunity to increase the scarcest and most important classroom resource—time.*

## 4 PRINCIPLES OF TIGHT TRANSITIONS TO REMEMBER...

1. *To teach students to transition effectively, scaffold the steps in the transition.* Teach them to follow the transition routine one step at a time. One effective way to do this is to number your steps. “When I say one, please stand up and push in your chairs. When I say two, please turn to face the door. When I say three, please silently follow your line leader to the place to line up.”
2. *To engineer effective transitions in your classroom, start by mapping the route.* Your students should follow the same path every time they move to the carpet, line up for recess, move to the next center, etc.
3. *Practice! Practice! Practice!* Students need time to practice transitions under your watchful eye, often multiple times a day at first. You may feel that this is wasting time, but the opposite is true. Look at it as making an investment. Save hours and hours over the course of the year by investing an extra five or ten minutes for a few days at the beginning.
4. *Tight transitions are quick (less than thirty seconds) and orderly.* Many teachers accept slow and orderly transitions because they make them feel as if they are in control. Use a stopwatch or timer to project transition times. Challenge students to beat previous times for transitions. Time saved in transitions is more time for learning. Messy transitions are an invitation for disruptions and conflicts that continue to undercut the classroom environment even after class has started.

## VIDEO EXAMPLES OF TIGHT TRANSITIONS...

*Tight Transitions Instructional Video* – <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o2KOnHRPd5g>  
*Ideas for Tight Transitions* - <https://www.teachingchannel.org/video/managing-transitions>

## MORE INFORMATION ON TIGHT TRANSITIONS...

*This is a great article about mastering tight transitions and troubleshooting problem areas* – <https://www.edutopia.org/article/mastering-transitions-todd-finley>