

Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports

WHAT IS PBIS?

Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports is an evidence-based way for schools to improve student behavior and establish a positive school culture – and when discipline improves, grades and test scores improve as well. PBIS pulls together research-based classroom management techniques, alternatives to suspension, and behavioral intervention strategies in a comprehensive structure that efficiently addresses student behavior school-wide.

A PBIS SCHOOL:

- Teaches, models, reinforces, and rewards good behavior
- Modifies and prevents bad behavior with consistent consequences and tailored interventions
- Assesses the causes of problem behavior and measures improvement through data analysis

SCHOOLS THAT IMPLEMENT PBIS DEMONSTRATE:

- Reduced office referral rates (and, subsequently, suspension and expulsion rates) by up to 50% per year
- Improved attendance and school engagement
- Improved academic achievement
- Reduced dropout rates
- Improved school atmosphere
- Increased instructional time

PBIS IS:

Proactive: Rather than waiting to punish negative behavior, PBIS schools teach and model clear expectations for behavior.

Positive: Teachers and staff acknowledge and encourage good behavior in positive ways, such as praise, special privileges, or small prizes.

Preventative: PBIS schools examine office referral and other discipline data to modify their PBIS program to prevent problem behavior.

Each student brings a unique personality, background and behavior pattern to school. Balancing instructional duties while managing a range of student behaviors – especially disruptive behavior – can make teaching difficult. PBIS strategies can help.

Universal Interventions prevent the development of problem behaviors and apply to all students. Examples include school-wide social skills training curricula and school rule education campaigns.

Secondary group interventions address the needs of students who already exhibit difficult behavior that limits their academic and social success. Secondary interventions include behavioral contracts, conflict resolution training, self-management strategies, and check and connect interventions.

Tertiary interventions are specialized, intensive strategies used to address a student's chronic academic and behavioral difficulties. Using Functional Behavior Assessments in an effort to understand the reason behind a student's difficult behavior, school officials can create a behavior support plan and provide counseling to address specific student needs.



Approximately 7,100 U.S. elementary and secondary schools of various sizes and demographics are implementing Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports.

PBIS is recommended by the U.S. Department of Education and is the subject of statutes, statewide initiatives, and university partnerships in almost all 50 states.

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To learn more about PBIS, contact the Southern Poverty Law Center's Alabama Education Reform Project at 334-956-8200 or toll-free at 866-779-3028 or visit www.pbis.org.