School-Wide Positive Behavior Support

Fast Facts!

Can you answer **YES** to any of these questions?

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1. Is overall school performance below national, state or local standards?
2. Are more than 10% of students chronically absent or tardy?
3. Are there high rates of problem student behavior, resulting in loss of academic time?
4. Do teachers express dissatisfaction with the current school-wide discipline plan?
5. Do several students receive disciplinary exclusions (OSS, ISS, expulsion or change of placement)?

Are these the **OUTCOMES** you would like to achieve in your school?

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1. Increase in attendance.
2. Improvement in academic performance.
3. Increase in the number of appropriate student behaviors.
4. Students and teachers report a more positive and calm environment.
5. Reduction in the number of behavioral disruptions, referrals, and incident reports.

If you answered **YES** to any of these items, then your school could benefit from a school-wide behavior support plan. Schools that have been successful in implementing school-wide positive behavior interventions and supports have reported the above outcomes!

What is **School-Wide Positive Behavior Support**?

Positive Behavior Support (PBS) is a general term that refers to the application of positive interventions and system changes to achieve socially important behavior change. PBS was developed initially as an alternative to aversive interventions used for students with significant disabilities who engaged in extreme forms of self-injury and aggression. More recently, the technology has been applied successfully with a wide range of students, in a wide range of contexts, and extended from an intervention approach for individual students to an intervention approach for entire schools. (For a complete definition visit [www.pbis.org](http://www.pbis.org)).

What are the **GOALS** of Positive Behavior Support?

Positive Behavior Support is not a new intervention package, but an application of a behaviorally-based systems approach to enhancing the capacity of schools, families, and communities to design effective environments that improve the fit between research-validated practices and the environments in which teaching and learning occur. The focus is on creating and sustaining school environments that improve lifestyle results (personal, health, social, academic, work, etc.) for all students by making problem behavior less effective, efficient, and relevant, while making desired behavior more functional. In addition, the use of culturally appropriate interventions is emphasized.
Who is **INVOLVED** in the Positive Behavior Support Process?

School-wide PBS requires a collaborative team consisting of administrators, teachers, support personnel, behavior specialist, and parents. You may already have these people coming together as part of a School Improvement Team. This School Improvement Team can build on the processes a school already has in place to improve the effectiveness, efficiency and relevance of both child and adult behavior and to develop a comprehensive, school-wide system to proactively reduce challenging behaviors and teach more appropriate behaviors.

What is a School-Wide Positive Behavior Support **PLAN**?

The School-wide PBS Plan would include the following steps:

1. Expectations are clearly and positively defined.
2. Behavioral expectations are taught to all students and staff.
3. Appropriate behaviors are acknowledged.
4. Behavioral errors are proactively corrected.
5. A database for keeping records and making decisions is established.
6. Data-based monitoring and adaptations to the plan are regularly conducted.

How can the Positive Behavior Support Project **ASSIST** your school?

The Positive Behavior Support Project, located at the University of South Florida in Tampa, can provide training and consultation to districts and schools with all aspects of school-wide implementation including, but not limited to:

1. Development of a clear, positive purpose.
2. Development of positively stated behavior expectations.
3. Development of procedures for teaching school-wide expectations.
4. Training on the School-Wide Information System (SWIS) database software system.

How can you **ACCESS** the Positive Behavior Support Project’s assistance?

The PBS Project is funded by the Florida Department of Education to provide training and technical assistance for applications of positive behavior support at the school-wide, classroom, targeted group, and individual student levels. If you would like to additional information please visit our website at [http://flpbs.fmhi.usf.edu](http://flpbs.fmhi.usf.edu). If you would like to make a request for assistance with your district, school, or with an individual student in your school, please contact Dr. Heather George at (813) 974-6440 or email us at [flpbs@fmhi.usf.edu](mailto:flpbs@fmhi.usf.edu).