

Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports

The discipline philosophy at IICSN is that of encouraging a positive approach to dealing with students. IICSN takes the approach of responding to and restoring justice when dealing with inappropriate student behaviors. In all discipline situations, there is an offender or aggressor and a victim. Responding to, repairing, and restoring justice focuses on the needs of the victims and the offenders while helping the students to take responsibility for their actions and to repair the harm that has been done. This theory of justice is used to help future consequences of the same poor behavior not to happen again.

Positive Behavioral Interventions & Supports is a school-wide discipline system that places an emphasis on proactive strategies for defining, teaching, and supporting student behaviors. It is a continuum of positive behavior supports implemented throughout the school to increase the school's ability to design and enhance an effective learning environment. Attention of the Positive Behavioral Interventions & Supports is focused on creating and sustaining behavioral systems that improve student behaviors by targeting less effective student behaviors while shaping these into desired functional behavior in the school.

Frequently, school-wide discipline focuses on reacting to student misbehaviors by implementing punishment based strategies. Research has shown these to be ineffective overall when used continually, especially when there are no positive strategies utilized to enhance desired behaviors. Introducing, modeling, and reinforcing positive social behaviors can be critical to the successful behavioral and cognitive development of students. Teaching behavioral expectations and rewarding students for following them, is much more likely to have a lasting long-term effect on handling discipline within a school.

Essentially, we look at discipline as a series of three steps.

1. **Do It** – if you caused the behavior, then you need to explain how it happened, why you did it, and what you hoped to gain from this poor choice of behavior.
2. **Own It** – now that you are having to answer for your behavior, take ownership of it and give insight into what you were thinking and what was happening at the time of your poor choice.
3. **Fix It** – again, you have noted this was not your best choice, so how will you work with this type of situation or this student so it won't happen again?

Not all discipline situations at the school need parental involvement or are serious enough to have students do a detention, suspension, or expulsion. Empowering students to take a look at what caused the poor behavior, how it hurt others in the class, and what needs to be done to fix the situation allows children to note that mistakes are made and hurt feelings can be repaired. It helps children to develop responsibility for themselves and others.

Four Key Elements

1. Outcomes: academic and behavior targets
2. Practices: interventions and strategies that help students to refocus their behavior
3. Data: information that is used to help students feel better about their choices and themselves
4. Systems: supports that are put into place to help the students

Characteristics of Positive Behavioral Interventions & Supports

Schools that recommend students to the office for discipline due to patterns of misbehavior are not addressing the success of students or completing sound practices to detract from these continued poor student choices. The following characteristics of Positive Behavioral Interventions & Supports are what the school is working to help students accomplish in an effort to change poor choices into positive ones.

- ✓ Commitment to helping students see what they have done and help them to refocus
- ✓ Emphasis on students taking leadership roles in the classrooms
- ✓ Acknowledgement of positive student choices/behaviors
- ✓ Correction of poor student choices/behaviors
- ✓ Provision of fair and consistent consequences

Positive Reinforcements

For students who maintain good behavior, good grades, work to the best of their ability, have a positive demeanor, good citizenship, and wear their uniform daily; the following rewards may be available. Please note, this list is not all-inclusive; it merely represents a sample of the reinforcements available to students.

- Principal's Award/Certificate
- Pizza With the Principal
- Honor Roll Recognition
- Special Field Trips
- Incentive Socials
- Classroom/Teachers Rewards
- Treasure Chests Rewards
- Student of the Week Recognition
- Verbal Praise/Praise Telephone Calls to Parents
- Homework Passes
- Extra Recesses, Computer Time, Gym Time