Back to the Classroom Basics 1: 
Supporting Social, Emotional, and 
Behavioral Growth in the Classroom

Learning Objectives
As a result of attending this webinar, educators will be able to:

- Develop an action plan to create a positive, predictable, and safe classroom environment
- Go “back to basics” with critical practice features
- Identify critical empirically-supported practices to support all learners
- Focus on implementation—monitor and adjust based on data

DEVELOP AN ACTION PLAN

Effective Classroom Environments Plan Template

https://www.pbis.org/resource/creating-effective-classroom-environments-plan-template

BACK TO BASICS

Supporting Schools During and After Crisis

Guiding Principles

- Make student growth and benefit central to all decisions.
- MTSS is for all students, families, and educators.
- Continue to invest in systems to support high-fidelity implementation across time.
- Use data to inform all decisions (screening, progress monitoring, equitable outcomes, & fidelity).
- Prioritize equity.
- Implement a small number of effective, culturally-relevant practices well.
- Integrate, align, & connect practices.
- Use the MTSS framework to differentiate supports & monitor to ensure equity.

OUTCOMES

SYSTEMS

DATA

EQUITY

PRACTICES

“Back to Basics”

Positive, Predictable, & Safe Learning Environments

Students’ Social, Emotional, Behavioral, & Academic Growth

3 Simple Practices that Do It All!

Teach

Screen

Connect

Monitor

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Resources to Support

Positive Greetings at the Door/Login

https://www.pbis.org/resource/positive-greetings-at-the-door

https://www.pbis.org/resource/socially-connected-while-physically-distant

Active Engagement


https://www.pbis.org/resource/effective-instruction-as-a-protective-factor
3 Simple Practices that Do It All!

Specific feedback (5:1 Positive to Corrective Ratio)

Connect

Monitor

Screen

Teach

Support

Specific feedback
Students’ Social, Emotional, Behavioral, & Academic Growth

Resources to Support Specific Positive (& Corrective) Feedback

Be+ App

https://www.pbis.org/resource/the-student-teacher-game

“Back to Basics”

Connect

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Screen

Teach

Support

Positive, Predictable, & Safe Learning Environments

Students’ Social, Emotional, Behavioral, & Academic Growth

“Back to Basics”

Connect and enhance relationships among educators, students, and families to promote effective communication during times of disrupted learning. Check in with students daily and with families regularly to identify support needs as they emerge.


Aligning and Integrating Family Engagement in Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS)

**Back to Basics**

Formally or informally **screen** to efficiently identify students who need more support (related to health, safety, SEB needs, academic concerns). For students who require additional support, differentiate and intensify Tier 1 and consider Tier 2 or Tier 3.

https://charts.intensiveintervention.org/screen OR /ascreening
https://improvingliteracy.org/sites/improvingliteracy2.uoregon.edu/files/best_practices_in_universal_screening.pdf

**Safe Environment**

Establish a **safe environment** (in class and/or online). Teach, prompt, and acknowledge predictable routines, positive expectations and SEB skills. Bridge expectations (teach connections) across settings (e.g., home, school).

- Arrange furniture to allow easy traffic flow
- Ensure adequate supervision of all areas
- Designate staff & student areas
- Seating arrangements (groups, carpet, etc.)

Maximize structure & predictability

- Arrange furniture to maximize safety
- Ensure adequate distance between all areas
- Designate individual staff & student areas
- Seating arrangements to maintain required distance
Predictable Routines: Critical Features

- **Develop Predictable Routines & Schedule**
  - Teacher routines
    - Administration time
    - Personal time
  - Student routines
    - Student directed activities
    - Whole group activities
    - Independent activities
- **Make smooth, rapid transitions**
- **Teach/practice** routines & transition behaviors

Expectations: Critical Features

- A small number of positively stated expectations
- 2-3 examples of expected behavior within each routine
- Teaching matrix (expectations within routines)
- Teach expectations directly using explicit social skills instruction
- Actively involve students & provide practice in context

Social Skills Lesson Plan Example

- **Objective**
- **Materials**
- **Activities**
- **Examples**

Prompts & Active Supervision: Critical Features

- **Prompts**
  - Delivered *before* behavior
  - *State* expected behavior
  - Reminder of *previously taught* behaviors

Active Supervision

- **Move**
- **Scan**
- **Interact**

Specific Feedback: Why Praise?

- **It works!**
  Decades of research support the relationship between positive and specific feedback and student outcomes
- **Positive climate & relationships**
  Providing positive feedback helps to create a positive classroom climate & develop positive relationships
- **It’s all about the ratio!**
  Maintain a favorable ratio of positive to corrective feedback

- (Cook et al., 2020; Floress et al., 2017; Simonsen et al. 2008)
Specific Feedback: Critical Features

- **Specific Praise**
  "A positive statement, typically provided by the teacher, when a desired behavior occurs (contingent) to inform students specifically what they did well."

- **Specific Error Corrections or Redirections**
  "An informative statement, typically provided by the teacher, that is given when an undesired behavior occurs (contingent), states the observed behavior, and tells the student exactly what they should do in the future in a brief, concise manner."
  Error corrections should also be calm, private, and instructional.

(Simonsen et al. 2008, pp. 362, 364, emphasis added)

Also remember...

https://www.pbis.org/resource/the-student-teacher-game

"Back to Basics"

Effectively teach and prompt critical academic skills, and actively engage students in learning. Prompt and reinforce expectations and SEB skills throughout instruction.

Provide positive and supportive feedback to support skill development.

Teach

https://www.pbis.org/resource/effective-instruction-as-a-protective-factor

https://www.pbis.org/resource/pbis-cultural-responsiveness-field-guide-resources-for-trainers-and-coaches
https://www.pbis.org/resource/high-school-pbis-implementation-student-voice
Positive, Predictable, & Safe Learning Environments

Connect
Monitor
Screen
Teach
Support

Students’ Social, Emotional, Behavioral, & Academic Growth

Continue to monitor implementation and safety, health, SEB, and academic needs to (a) enhance supports for all students and (b) identify students who require more support (Tier 2 or Tier 3) over time. Match the intensity of monitoring to the intensity of need.

“Back to Basics” in the Classroom

FOCUS ON IMPLEMENTATION

“Back to Basics” in the Classroom

Developing Habits of Effective Practice

Building Blocks of Behavior

A
Antecedent

B
Behavior

C
Consequence

Greet Students
Train & Coach
Performance Feedback

Prompt & Remind
Monitor Fidelity & Outcomes

Provide Resources to Support
Celebrate Progress & Successes!

Build Relationships First
Teach Them the Tech...
...and Teach the Expectations
Quick Acknowledgements are Better Than None
Collect Basic Data
Assume Best Intentions and Ask
Recruit Support for Students Who Need It

https://www.pbisapps.org/community/Pages/Classroom-Management.aspx

https://intensiveintervention.org/intensive-intervention/progress-monitor
3 Simple Practices that Do It All!

- Positive Greetings at the Door
- Active Engagement
- Specific Feedback (5:1 + to - Ratio)

**Support Yourself**
- Safe environment
- Predictable routines
- Positive expectations
- Specific feedback (5:1)

**Support ALL Learners**

1. **Support**
2. **Teach**
3. **Connect**
4. **Monitor**

Guiding Principles

- Priority equity
- Inform all stakeholders of all decisions
- Implement a small number of reforms, monitor and adjust
- Use data to inform all decisions (e.g., PBIS, Teaching, Attendance, etc.)

Please let us know what other resources would be helpful now & throughout the year!

Thank You for Creating Positive, Predictable, & Safe Learning Environments for All!

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