

School-wide Positive Behavioral Intervention and Supports Myth vs. Fact

Some common School-wide PBIS myths and facts are highlighted to increase staff awareness.

Table 1. Common myths vs. facts regarding School-wide PBIS

#	Myth	Fact
1	SWPBIS is just another behavior program we will have for a few years until we decide to adopt a different program	SWPBIS is best described as a framework rather than a program. SWPBIS schools adopt a set of philosophical beliefs and processes to guide the building of sophisticated behavior supports, which are routinely evaluated for effectiveness. While behavioral programs will continue to come, and go based on the needs of students, SWPBIS processes will become a part of the school culture.
2	Staff will not be allowed to punish students who misbehave.	Staff at SWPBIS schools do not ignore student misbehavior. On the contrary, all staff are expected to consistently correct student misbehavior in all settings. Staff are trained and empowered to administer a variety of consequences which “fit the level” of the misbehavior and have a high likelihood of decreasing the chance of the misbehavior reoccurring.
3	The “positive” in SWPBIS means we pass out rewards every time kids behave.	The word “positive” refers to the intentional building of a safe and welcoming school climate where all adults and students feel respected. SWPBIS schools proactively structure and organize all settings for behavioral success with a goal to create a high number of positive staff/student interactions.
4	“Universal” or Tier 1 means we implement SWPBIS exactly like all other schools.	Implementation of SWPBIS happens when key implementation components of SWPBIS are put into place reflecting the unique context of the local community and addressing any contextual needs and/or challenges.

#	Myth	Fact
5	Once we have posters hanging on our walls and are handing out tickets, we are implementing SWPBIS.	SWPBIS is a process for creating school environments that are more predictable and effective for achieving academic and social goals. It is more than having posters on the wall and handing out tickets.
6	Rewards/acknowledgements are just another form of bribery.	As far as the bribery issue goes, we agree that teachers should not use bribery with any student. However, appropriately administered positive reinforcement is not a bribe. We define bribery as any inducement for an illegal or unethical act. Behaving well in a classroom and performing well academically are not illegal or illicit. However, there is a form of extraordinary bribery in which a student will misbehave on purpose if he does not receive a reward. In this situation, a student should never receive a reward. If he is given a reward in this case, he has just been reinforced for making a threat.

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