



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING



JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL P. FLANAGAN
SUPERINTENDENT OF
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

July 24, 2006

MEMORANDUM

TO: State Board of Education

FROM: Michael P. Flanagan, Chairman 

SUBJECT: Adoption of the Positive Behavior Support Policy

The vision of the State Board of Education (SBE) is to create learning environments that prepare students to be successful in the 21st Century. The elements of a school-wide positive behavior support (PBS) system are essential prerequisites for creating schools that promote safe, orderly, and respectful learning environments. PBS systems are proven to improve academic achievement, attendance, and graduation rates.

Positive behavior support is an application of a behaviorally-based system approach to enhance the capacity of schools, families, and communities to design effective environments that improve the fit or link between research-validated practices and the environments in which teaching and learning occurs. Attention is focused on creating and sustaining school environments that improve lifestyle results (personal, health, social, family, work, recreation) for all children and youth by making problem behavior less effective, efficient, and relevant, and desired behavior more functional (from www.pbis.org). PBS aligns with many SBE current policies and initiatives, among them: Universal Education, Keeping Kids in School, Anti-Bullying, and Michigan's Integrated Behavior and Learning Support Initiative (MiBLSi).

A positive behavior support system is a data-based effort that concentrates on adjusting the system that supports the student. Such a system is implemented by collaborative, school-based teams using person-centered planning. School-wide expectations for pro-social behavior are clearly stated, widely promoted, and frequently referenced. Both individual and school-wide learning and behavior problems are assessed comprehensively. Functional assessment of learning and behavior challenges is linked to an intervention that focuses on skill building. The

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

KATHLEEN N. STRAUS – PRESIDENT • JOHN C. AUSTIN – VICE PRESIDENT
CAROLYN L. CURTIN – SECRETARY • MARIANNE YARED MCGUIRE – TREASURER
NANCY DANHOF – NASBE DELEGATE • ELIZABETH W. BAUER
REGINALD M. TURNER • EILEEN LAPPIN WEISER

608 WEST ALLEGAN STREET • P.O. BOX 30608 • LANSING, MICHIGAN 48909
www.michigan.gov/mde • (517) 373-3324

effectiveness of the selected intervention is evaluated and reviewed, leading to data-based revisions. Positive interventions that support adaptive and pro-social behavior and build on the strengths of the student lead to an improved learning environment. Students are offered a continuum of methods that help them learn and maintain appropriate behavior and discourage violation of codes of student conduct.

The principles of Universal Education reflect the beliefs that each person deserves and needs a positive, concerned, accepting educational community that values diversity and provides a comprehensive system of individual supports from birth to adulthood. The Keeping Kids in School initiative emphasizes respect, positive behavior supports, and proactive approaches to prevent disruptive and dangerous behaviors. The draft Model Anti-Bullying policy incorporates the demonstration and teaching of positive, proactive social behaviors throughout the school environment. MiBLSi is an Individuals with Disabilities Education Act initiative unique to Michigan that is proven to increase reading performance and reduce behavior problems using the principles of PBS.

The impact of PBS extends beyond these exemplary initiatives and policies. PBS strengthens Michigan's efforts to increase adequate yearly progress, decrease dropout rates, and decrease expulsion rates. Elements of PBS have already been successfully implemented by the Coordinated School Health and Safety Programs Unit; the Office of School Improvement includes behavior and school climate in the School Improvement Framework. In addition, there currently exists a manual for specifically implementing PBS in Michigan, produced through the Office of Special Education and Early Intervention Services. It is imperative that a policy exists to ensure that PBS is consistently and effectively utilized by every school district in Michigan.

The PBS policy is presented in Attachment A. Attachment B is a brief list of PBS resources.

It is recommended that the State Board of Education adopt the positive behavior support policy as attached in the Superintendent's memorandum dated July 24, 2006.

POSITIVE BEHAVIOR SUPPORT POLICY

The Vision and Principles of Universal Education are the framework and the foundation for policy development by the State Board of Education. Universal Education reflects the belief that each person deserves and needs a concerned, accepting educational community that values diversity and provides a comprehensive system of individual supports from birth to adulthood.

The vision of the State Board of Education is to create learning environments that prepare students to be successful in the 21st Century. The educational community must provide a system that will support students' efforts to manage their own behavior and assure academic achievement. An effective behavior support system is a proactive, positive, skill-building approach for the teaching and learning of successful student behavior. Positive behavior support systems ensure effective strategies that promote pro-social behavior and respectful learning environments. Research-based positive behavior support systems are appropriate for all students, regardless of age.

Policy

In keeping with this vision, it is the policy of the State Board of Education that each school district in Michigan implement a system of school-wide positive behavior support strategies.

POSITIVE BEHAVIORAL SUPPORT REFERENCES

Positive Behavior Support for ALL Michigan Students: Creating Environments That Assure Learning (February 2000)*

Positive Behavior Support for Young Children (June 2001)*

National Technical Assistance Center on Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) <http://www.pbis.org/main.htm>

Michigan's Integrated Behavior and Learning Support Initiative (MiBLSi)
<http://www.cenmi.org/miblsi>