

How can WEB fit into and support a schools PBIS program?

PBIS is a framework for schools to help establish 3-5 School Wide Expectations that are teachable and obtainable for students.

WEB and PBIS are strongly aligned in purpose and intention. The biggest difference between the two, in theory and design, is that students are not involved in the initial decision-making and the implementation of PBIS. As schools work with the PBIS program they realize that the student piece is needed. This is where a WEB program can come in. WEB calls for a very active voice in establishing the cultural norms of the middle school environment.

WEB Leaders are a selected cross section of 8th graders who lead, guide and mentor 6th graders through their first year of middle school while also becoming positive leaders for their peers. Studies show the importance positive peer influence in establishing a school culture; and, we believe that school culture, in the long run, is primarily established by students, not adults.

WEB supports the PBIS structure most clearly in two particular areas: Tier 1 and Anti- Bullying.

Tier 1 Supports

Tier 1 Supports and WEB are really programs of prevention rather than intervention, believing that if students know what the desired behaviors are, they will, more likely than not, do them. WEB believes that people are good and want to do good...and that kids are people. While adults make the initial decisions and design on what the particular 3-5 behaviors the school will focus on in its PBIS program, WEB brings the student voice and leadership to the desired behaviors. The power of the WEB Leaders' voices complements the messaging that the adults are delivering within the PBIS program. WEB Leaders are able to relay the message to other students in a way that makes the message realistic and relatable.

Orientation

WEB's tagline is "Students Helping Students Succeed." Many times, 6th graders struggle with middle school transition because of not understanding what the expectations are at their new school. WEB Leaders, knowing the PBIS behaviors from attending the school, are mentors who will talk with and show the 6th graders "how to be". Specifically, at orientation two 8th graders lead a group of ten 6th graders through a series of small group activities which promote positive behaviors such as teamwork, safety, responsibility, listening and respect. The culmination of the small group is an activity that allows the WEB Leaders to share "Words of Wisdom" which is a list of information that will help the 6th graders be more successful both socially and academically. Because the small group curriculum is designed following Bruce Tuckman's Group Development Model, trust is built amongst the 6th graders themselves as well as between the 6th graders and the 8th grade WEB Leaders. Once that trust has been built, the information shared is heard and understood in a significant way.

Yearlong Program

Continuing through the year, WEB Leaders go into 6th grade classrooms to deliver Academic Follow Up lessons which promote positive social behaviors and develop academic skills. PBIS behaviors could easily be part of the curriculum as the two programs' intentions align. In the PBIS framework it calls for schools to design lessons that reflect the data collected on behavior concerns. By using the WEB yearlong program WEB Leaders are able to be proactive and address these concern areas in a safe and comfortable environment for students.

The WEB Program & PBIS



Also, as WEB Leaders go about their own middle school experience, the 6th graders see them behaving in an appropriate and positive manner, thus showing the 6th graders how to be in the hallways, the classroom, in the lunchroom and on the busses.

Anti-Bullying

PBIS's focus on "Expect Respect" very much aligns with WEB's intention to build positive peer relationships. While WEB was not designed to be an anti-bullying program, its natural effect is to be just that. WEB is a pro-relationship building program which says, "I can't hate someone whose story I know." A school culture of respect is built on knowing each other and supporting each other. WEB's approach complements the "Stop Strategy", the operating in prevention and the second, in intervention. WEB improves social competence and cultivates strength in students, ultimately creating a culture where students are given permission to care about one another and given the skills to do so.