

School-Wide Positive Behavior Support

The Arc Michigan believes that every student should receive a free and appropriate public education in the least restrictive environment as provided through IDEA 2004. A school-wide positive behavior support system is necessary to achieve this goal. Best practice is universal positive behavior support (PBS) that is school-wide as a positive preventive measure rather than as a reactive measure. PBS is beneficial for ALL students. The Arc Michigan supports the policy of the Michigan State Board of Education that every district in Michigan implement a system of school-wide positive behavior support strategies and the Michigan Department of Education's "School-wide Positive Behavior Implementation Guide" issued in 2008.

PBS begins with identifying needed environmental changes and accommodations, implementing them, then identifying and teaching skills to replace inappropriate behavior. In a school that uses PBS, expectations for behavior are clearly stated, widely promoted and referred to frequently. Positive behaviors are identified, taught, and practiced by all. Everyone is aware of behavioral expectations, including parents, and is respectful of each other.

Positive Behavior Support (PBS) is a research-based best practice that uses data-driven decision making. Universal support is successful for about 80-85% of students. Another 10% respond well to a more personalized approach. In each school about 57% of students require intensive intervention. This process begins with a thorough functional behavior assessment (FBA) to determine what the student's behavior is trying to communicate. The Michigan Department of Education Office of Special Education and Early Intervention Services (OSE-EIS) has developed a FBA process for this purpose. Intervention must then be focused on adjusting the environment and teaching needed skills rather than using reactionary consequences that are punitive.

Benefits of school-wide PBS include the following:

- Increased active participation for all students
- Increased academic and pro-social skills
- Increased attendance and graduation rate
- Decreased bullying
- Decreased drop-out rate
- Decreased office detention referrals
- Decreased suspension and expulsion

Adopted by The Arc Michigan 5/01/10