



Wyoming Department of Education

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MEMORANDUM NO. 2008 – 038

TO: School District Superintendents

FROM: Susan Shipley, Education Consultant 
Special Programs Unit
Debra Smith, Education Program Manager
Special Programs Unit 

DATE: March 7, 2008

Subject: Positive Behavioral Interventions and Support (PBIS)
Applications Being Accepted

Time Sensitive Material

The Wyoming Department of Education (WDE) is accepting applications from schools interested in participating as a PBIS implementation site.

Applications are due to the WDE by May 2, 2008.

School-wide Positive Behavioral Interventions and Support (PBIS) is a research-based, systems approach that helps schools improve the educational outcomes of all students by creating positive learning environments for all, addressing the individual needs of some, and collaboratively addressing the targeted needs of a few.

The WDE is committed to offering ongoing training and support to schools interested in implementing PBIS to assist them in improving school climates and student achievements. The WDE will support schools by providing in-depth training in the PBIS model beginning this fall and continuing throughout the school year. Training will focus on the following PBIS components: effective disciplinary practices, data-based decision making of instructional strategies, and the application of research-validated behavior management practices.

Interested schools should complete and return the enclosed application to: Susan Shipley, Wyoming Department of Education Special Programs Unit, 320 W. Main St., Riverton, WY 82501. For more information regarding the PBIS initiative contact Susan at 307-777-6231.

Attachments

**Application for
POSITIVE BEHAVIORAL INTERVENTIONS AND SUPPORT
Training**

School-wide Positive Behavioral Interventions and Support (PBIS) is a systems approach that helps schools and districts improve the education of all students by creating positive learning environments for all, addressing individual needs of some, and collaboratively addressing the targeted needs of a few. The school-wide PBIS approach assists schools in creating established outcomes that relate to academic and social behavior; systems that support staff efforts; practices that support student success; a decision making process guided by data; and effective discipline practices/procedures.

The Wyoming PBIS Leadership Initiative grew from the identified relationship between learning and behavior. A growing body of evidence regionally and throughout the state indicates a growing trend of behavioral problems in our schools and communities which hinder and interfere with creating positive and safe learning environments. The Wyoming Department of Education Federal Programs and Special Education Units, in collaboration with the WY Statewide Leadership Team (consisting of teachers, counselors, school administrators, community based organizations, parents and mental health/family service agencies) are committed to offering ongoing training and support to schools interested in implementing PBIS to assist them in improving school climates and student achievements.

Considerations and Expectations for Involvement

The Wyoming Department of Education (WDE) will accept applications from schools to participate in the WY PBIS initiative. At the onset, schools will be encouraged to review and consider local data, resources, and the commitments outlined in this application in making the decision to participate. Schools must then examine the data and look for trends regarding the following components:

- Number of students with learning disabilities;
- Rate of expulsion/suspension;
- Failure to meet AYP - in need of improvement status;
- Number of office discipline referrals;
- Drop-out rate;
- Limited access to behavioral interventions;
- The level of programming available or currently being implemented; and/or
- Negative behavior as defined by the community.

Schools that note some or many of these trends are encouraged to apply to become a PBIS School as a method to improve outcomes related to student behavior and academic achievement.

Participation Commitment

WDE Will:

- Invite and select implementation sites;
- Provide external trainers;
- Provide ongoing technical assistance;
- Evaluate school's PBIS efforts;
- Provide all training and support for the school's behavior data tracking system (SWIS);
- Disseminate outcomes, information and resources; and
- Provide all training materials and facilities.

Participating Schools Will:

- Establish a school PBIS/Behavior team with one person identified to perform the coaching functions (building principal is a required member of the team, but should not be the coach);
- Participate in team trainings over a three year period;
- Fund the travel expenses and substitute pay for team members to attend trainings;
- Provide data to the Statewide Leadership Team for ongoing evaluation and improvement; and
- Annually subscribe to SWIS (School-wide Information Systems), a behavior data tracking system, at \$250/year.

Training:

A contract consultant with expertise and experience in implementing School-wide PBIS will provide training for school teams. The consultant will develop the final training curriculum in coordination with the WY Statewide Leadership Team. Generally, training will focus on the following components:

- Developing systems to support and sustain the change needed to produce long-term positive outcomes;
- Effective disciplinary principles and practices;
- Data-based decision making and evaluation of instructional strategies and curriculum components; and
- Application of research-validated instruction and behavior management practices.

Wyoming Department of Education
Special Programs Unit

**APPLICATION FOR THE WYOMING
PBIS
INITIATIVE**

Directions:

To apply, please complete the following information and answer all questions. Applications are due to the WY PBIS Coordinator by May 2, 2008. If more than one school in the district is applying, each school must submit a separate application.

School _____

Mailing Address _____

City and State _____

Phone Number _____

Fax Number _____

School District _____

Principal _____

Director of Special Education _____

Project Contact _____

Phone # _____

Email Address _____

(WDE will communicate all PBIS program correspondence with the school through the Project Contact).

Please respond to the following questions.

1. What is the primary reason your school is applying to the Wyoming PBIS initiative? Note considerations and expectations for involvement.

2. This PBIS initiative will include training and technical assistance over a 3 year period of time. How will your school invest in this project through the commitment of resources such as time, staff, fiscal, staff development, or other resources?

Address the level of staff commitment to participate.

3. What components of PBIS does your school already have in place, if any?

Describe the behavior management techniques, strategies, and/or programs the school utilizes at present.

Principal's Signature _____

Director of Special Education _____

General Education Faculty Representative _____

Special Education Faculty Representative _____

Superintendent _____

Please send the completed and signed application to:

Susan Shipley, WY PBIS Coordinator

Wyoming Department of Education

Special Programs Unit

320 W. Main St.

Riverton, WY 82501

(307) 777-6231

sshipl@educ.state.wy.us