

How Do We Reinforce Positive Behavior?

Goal	Long-Term Vision	First Steps
Catch students being good.	Staff consistently and specifically reinforce at least four times as many positive behaviors as negative behaviors.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Ensure focus on and recognition of behaviors, not personalities. <input type="checkbox"/> Specifically describe the reasons why positive behaviors are receiving recognition. <input type="checkbox"/> Agree to use the same methods to reinforce or to recognize, or both, positive behaviors. <input type="checkbox"/> Formally or informally monitor individual and collective efforts to ensure we are recognizing four positive behaviors for every one negative behavior.
Build relationships.	Staff systemically ensure that every student has a positive connection with at least one adult on campus.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> School administration identifies students who are involved in any form of extracurricular activities. <input type="checkbox"/> Study and implement strategies for building positive communities of learning within every classroom. <input type="checkbox"/> Students in the yellow and red zones are assigned (formally or informally) mentors with whom they have established a connection and with whom they will check in regularly.
Provide schoolwide celebrations.	Formally and informally, the school regularly celebrates and recognizes positive behaviors.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Consider a drawing or other systemwide method to further recognize students whose positive behavior has been recognized. <input type="checkbox"/> Brainstorm rewards that are low cost or no cost, preferably academic in nature, that will appeal to students and will serve as an incentive. <input type="checkbox"/> Ensure that external means of motivating students are balanced by internal means. Over time, the goal is to move to more intrinsic and less extrinsic reinforcement, when students make good decisions for the satisfaction it instills instead of the reward it brings.

Source: Hierck, T., Coleman, C., & Weber, C. (2011). Pyramid of behavior interventions: Seven keys to a positive learning environment. Bloomington, IN: Solution Tree Press.