

JUST IN TIME

Weekly Update



NAVIGATING THE “NEW NORMAL”

Now that you're starting to settle into the school year, are you finding that the “new normal” still feels completely abnormal? The way your classroom looks is different. The way you're teaching is different. The way your students interact and learn is different. In a time where the “new normal” has taken over, how can you make sure that what you're doing will lead to success for your students?

Let's look at this through the lens of PBIS. We know that when our students are engaged and our management of their behavior is strong, we will see positive outcomes not only in their behavioral needs, but in their academic ones, as well. This is something that is critical any year, but even more so as educators and students alike are navigating this “new normal.” From entering the school building in the morning to sitting down to eat lunch to staying engaged in the classroom with masks and plexiglass, our students are surrounded by this “new normal,” which is not something that feels normal at all. When we add the layer of virtual learning to this, it becomes even more difficult to determine what our best practices should be to manage their needs.



The best way to counter the difficulties of all that is unknown is to “sure up” and

strengthen our external systems. Think about being in line to check out at the grocery store and seeing the spots on the floor that show you where to stand so you're 6 feet away from others. Our students need these external systems in school. The more things we can make clear, concise, and predictable for them, the more we will be able to ensure student success in this abnormally “new normal.”

STRONG SYSTEMS FOR SUCCESS

We have shared information with you over the last couple weeks about identifying the things you CAN control and how to “worry effectively” about the things you can't. Now it's time to look at the external systems for PBIS that you may or may not have in place in a way that best meets your current needs. Take a moment to check off the items from the list below that are already a strength within your school. Those that are left unmarked are a great starting point to “sure up” and strengthen your external systems.

- Attention to social/emotional needs
- Expectations for in-person learning
- Expectations for online/virtual learning
- Ways to acknowledge students in-person
- Ways to acknowledge students virtually
- “COVID-Friendly” in-person rewards
- Virtual rewards for students
- Supporting students & their families



We're here for you and want to help with any of the items from the list that you didn't check off and would like to strengthen in your school. Fill out a “**Request for Technical Assistance**” using the link below and your region's Behavior Support Specialist will contact you to get started on the supports your school needs to be most successful during this time.

<https://www.marshall.edu/bmhtac/request-for-assistance/>

Also... Be sure to check out the invitation in your email attachments to an upcoming presentation.