

## Effective Classroom Management Practices

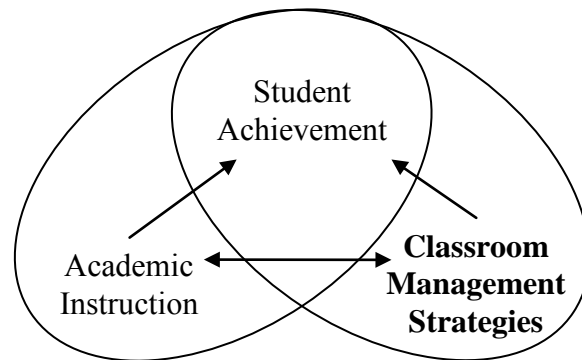
Classroom management strategies are universal practices that support all students. These practices help to build a sense of community and foster relationships between teachers and students and among students. As shown in the graphic below, classroom management strategies have an impact on instruction and student achievement. Effective classroom management strategies help to prevent student misbehavior and missed instructional time due to disciplinary practices such as out-of-school suspensions. These proactive, preventative strategies teach and reinforce positive student behavior.

### Teach, Review and Reinforce Clear Expectations

- State expectations positively (e.g., raise your hand).
- Establish behavioral expectations/rules.
- Teach rules in the context of routines and in the location that they occur (e.g., teach cafeteria rules in the cafeteria).
- Remind students of rule prior to the routine or context.

### Respond to Inappropriate Behavior

- Respond quickly and objectively.
- Make simple, positively stated requests.
- Acknowledge students who are engaging in appropriate behavior.
- Ask the student to take a break in a predetermined, supervised place.
- Anticipate situations that may result in misbehavior and proactively teach students appropriate behaviors beforehand.
- Objectively follow school procedures for major behavior problems.
- Teach and reinforce new skills or replacement behavior to increase appropriate behavior and decrease misbehavior.



Graphic adapted from Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports, [www.pbis.org](http://www.pbis.org).

## Effective Classroom Practices

### Foster Positive Relationships in the Classroom Community

- Welcome students to class by name and encourage classmates to greet each other.
- Call or send positive notes home to acknowledge positive behavior.
- Learn about students' interests, families, and accomplishments outside of school.
- Build positive relationships among students by providing opportunities for students to work in groups.
- Empower students to take an active role in the classroom through helping teaching staff and other students with tasks.

### Establish an Inclusive Classroom Environment

- Use and reinforce language that is gender neutral and free of bias.
- Select curricular materials that reflect the cultures and life experiences of the students.
- Encourage and expect participation from all students.
- Hold high expectations for all students.
- Learn about and honor cultures that are represented in your classroom.

## Make Data-Based Decisions to Support Positive Behavior

- Create and maintain data on student behavior.
- Use this data and student referral records to identify classroom management strategies that effectively support positive behavior and “hot spots” of inappropriate behavior.

Examine data by:

- Time of day.
  - Location.
  - Type of task.
  - Day of the week.
  - Time of year.
  - The students who are involved.
- Make changes to “hot spots” and monitor data to evaluate the effectiveness of the change.
  - Monitor student behavior and provide specific feedback.
  - Praise or reinforce students for following rules.
  - Review rules/expectations preventatively.
  - Give more praise for good behavior than correction for misbehavior.

### Online Resources

Best Evidence Encyclopedia  
<http://www.bestevidence.org/>

Center on Instruction  
<http://www.centeroninstruction.org>

Collaborative for Academic and Social Emotional Learning (CASEL)  
[www.CASEL.org](http://www.CASEL.org)

National Center on Positive Behavioral Interventions and Support  
<http://www.pbis.org>

What Works Clearinghouse  
<http://ies.ed.gov/ncee/wwc/>

Minnesota PBIS Resources  
[www.pbismn.org](http://www.pbismn.org)

### Further Reading from the Minnesota Department of Education:

Alternatives-to-Suspension Fact Sheets:

- Outcomes of Out-of-School Suspension Practices
- Multi-Tiered Behavior Support Systems that Reduce Out-of-School Suspensions

Dangerous Weapons and Disciplinary Incidents Reports

SNAPSHOTS on Minnesota Youth

### Optimize the Physical Space of the Classroom

- Arrange furniture to allow easy traffic flow.
- Make high traffic areas easily accessible.
- Ensure that students can be supervised in all areas.
- Create seating arrangements that are conducive to work.
- Ensure lighting is adequate for task.

### Create Routines for Common Activities/Tasks

- Completing work in groups vs. independently.
- Communicating with students and families.
- Turning in homework, grading, returning homework.
- Permission to use the bathroom, go to the nurse.
- Getting and returning materials.

### Provide Engaging Instruction

- Vary the method (lecture, audio, video, materials).
- Maximize active engagement by varying response format.
- Vary individual versus group responding.
- Vary response type (oral, written, gestural).
- Move around the room, scan the room and interact with students.
- Positively acknowledge responses and effort.
- Use media and technology.

Copies of fact sheets may be found on the MDE web site at: <http://education.state.mn.us>

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