



January 2017

## Positive Behavioral Interventions & Supports

### Tool Kit #3

**Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports' (PBIS) primary focus is on positive behavior and discipline practices that make schools safe and effective learning environments for all students.**

– West Virginia Expanded School Mental Health, 2017

PBIS is based on principles of applied behavior analysis and the prevention approach and values of positive behavior support. PBIS is a multi-tiered approach that supports the ESMH framework.

**Expanded school mental health (ESMH)** is a multi-tiered system of support where schools and strategic community partners work together to enhance student mental health in schools. It is a framework that:

- includes the full continuum of prevention; early intervention and treatment;
- serves all students;
- builds upon core programs/services being provided by schools
- emphasizes shared responsibility between schools, mental health providers and other community partners

Over the past 30 years, a number of studies have documented the effectiveness of School Wide-Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (SW-PBIS). This research supports improvements in disciplinary behavior, school climate, organizational health, student bullying behavior and peer victimization and academic achievement (Bradshaw, Koth, Thornton, & Leaf 2009; Bradshaw, Mitchell, & Leaf 2010; Horner, Sugai, &

Anderson, 2010; Sadler 7 Sugai , 2009; Simonsen et al., 2012; Waasdorp, Bradshaw& Leaf, 2012).

SW-PBIS is a framework for assisting school personnel in adopting and organizing evidence-based behavioral interventions into an integrated continuum that enhances academic and social behavior outcomes for all students. PBIS IS NOT a packaged curriculum, scripted intervention, or manualized strategy. PBIS IS a prevention-oriented approach for school personnel to (a) organize evidence-based practices, (b) improve their implementation of those practices, and (c) maximize academic and social behavior outcomes for students.

Decreasing aggressive conduct and bullying occurs through improving culture, climate and building relationships with students and staff, changing academic outcomes and increasing prosocial behaviors.

### How does it work?

Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) follows the School Improvement Framework and has 5 phases:

1. Utilization of state and local leadership teams that can develop, sustain and expand efforts;
2. Analyses of relevant school and student data to identify school-wide, classroom-wide, non-classroom settings, individual student and family engagement behavioral interventions and practices;
3. Identification and consensus of priority areas of patterns and possible causes of inappropriate behaviors identified through data analysis;
4. Identification and selection of evidence-based practices, interventions and strategies to address needs; and;
5. Development and implementation of effective programs in a Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) framework

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## WV PBIS

### West Virginia Resources

The WV Autism Training Center in collaboration with the WVDE Office of Special Education offers training and technical assistance to schools and districts that commit to school-wide PBIS. For more information concerning training please contact Amy Kelly [Kelly9@marshall.edu](mailto:Kelly9@marshall.edu)

WV PBIS [www.wvpbis.org](http://www.wvpbis.org)

### General Resources

Positive Behavioral Interventions & Supports OSEP Technical Assistance Center [www.PBIS.org](http://www.PBIS.org)

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

FLPBS-University of South Florida  
<http://flpbs.fmhi.usf.edu/>

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The purpose of the ESMH toolkits is to provide a common framework and recommendations to assist schools and community mental health providers to more effectively develop a comprehensive approach to school mental health that is consistent with current West Virginia Department of Education policies and best practices.

These recommendations and resources have been reviewed and approved by West Virginia's Expanded School Mental Health Steering Team. For more information visit, <https://livewell.marshall.edu/mutac>

## References

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Leadership for the West Virginia School Mental Health initiative is a shared commitment. This toolkit was prepared by:

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