Positive Behavior Supports (PBS) is an evidence-based, data-driven framework proven to reduce disciplinary incidents, increase a school’s sense of safety, and support improved academic outcomes.¹

Some of the results that Texas PBS campuses report are:
- Improved Academic Performance
- Reduction in Disciplinary Referrals
- Reduction in Disciplinary Disruptions
- Strengthened Communication between Home and School
- Maintenance of a least restrictive environment for all students ²

Over 9,000 US schools are implementing PBS and saving countless instructional hours otherwise lost to school discipline. Implementing PBS improves schools’ climate and helps keep students and teachers in safe and productive classrooms.

The US Department of Education is encouraging school districts to use stimulus funds to implement Positive Behavior Supports for intensive, district-wide professional development in school-wide positive behavioral supports. The Ed. Dept. suggests that districts:

Provide intensive district-wide professional development for special education and regular education teachers that focuses on scaling-up, through replication, proven and innovative evidence-based school-wide strategies in reading, math, writing and science, and positive behavioral supports to improve outcomes for students with disabilities.³

The US Department of Education views PBS training as “aligned with the core goals” of the stimulus as PBS can be sustained effectively with limited district oversight once the stimulus funds are gone.⁴

Why PBS Works:
The premise of PBS is that continual teaching, modeling, recognizing and rewarding of positive student behavior will reduce unnecessary discipline and promote a climate of greater productivity, safety, and learning. PBS schools apply a multi-tiered approach to prevention, using disciplinary data and principles of behavior analysis to develop school-wide, targeted, and individualized interventions and supports to improve school climate.

Schools that effectively implement PBS demonstrate:
- Up to 50% reduction in office referral rates per year (and corresponding reduction in suspension and expulsion rates)
- Improved attendance rates
- Improved academic achievement
- Improved staff perceptions of school safety and atmosphere⁵
Implementing Positive Behavior Supports Using Stimulus Funds:

School districts can use stimulus funds, including State Fiscal Stabilization Funds (SFSF), to implement school-wide PBS under these federal provisions:

- Any portion of IDEA Recovery Funds
- Schoolwide Programs\(^{vi}\) under Title I, Part A of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (20 U.S.C. § 6314) (Title I Recovery and SFSF Funds)
- School Improvement\(^{vii}\) under Title I, Part A of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (20 U.S.C. § 6316) (Title I Recovery and SFSF Funds)
- Early Intervening Services under IDEA (20 U.S.C. § 1413) (SFSF Funds)

After the stimulus, school districts can sustain PBS using the following federal funds:

- Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Grants (20 U.S.C. § 7102)
- School Counseling Grants (to train school counselors in PBS) under Title V of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (20 U.S.C. § 7245)
- The funding sources mentioned above

To properly sustain PBS implementation after the stimulus, a school district should budget:

- 1.0 FTE of PBS coaching per 15 schools or 10,000 students (school districts can train and re-position federally-funded staff such as behavior interventionists and school psychologists to serve as PBS coaches)
- 0.5 FTE of coaching in targeted and individualized PBS interventions
- 0.2 FTE of a district administrators time to coordinate the districts’s PBS efforts

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iv Id.

vi If a school serves a school attendance area in which at least 40 percent of the children are from low-income families, or, if at least 40 percent of the children enrolled in the school are from low-income families, the local educational agency may consolidate Title I funds to upgrade the entire educational program of a school based on the requirements set out in 20 U.S.C. § 6314 (2009).

vii In order to use school improvement funds to implement PBS, a school must first identify the need to improve school culture/student behavior in developing its school improvement plan. 20 U.S.C. § 6316 (2009).

For more information on PBS see: www.pbis.org