



## **PBIS: a quick overview**

According to Google: *Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) is a proactive approach to establishing the behavioral supports and social culture needed for all students in a school to achieve social, emotional and academic success.*

PBIS is a thoughtful approach to teaching behavior expectations in the school setting. Like teaching math, reading, writing and science we purposefully teach what it means to act appropriately in class, to travel the halls, to behave in the cafeteria and to play on the playground. In general, we teach how to be safe, respectful and responsible young people.

PBIS as an approach is not new. Schools and transportation departments around the country have used PBIS ideas for years. Here in Mead, some elementary schools and the transportation department are just coming online with the deliberate work of PBIS, whereas other elementary schools in the district have been at it for some time.

It is all about providing physical, social and emotional safety and security for our students. It is important that our students feel safe to participate in class or ride the school bus. When kids have that sense of safety and security, they are able to thrive academically.

PBIS practices are instructive, not disciplinary. Responsive, not reactive. In other words, adults in the building or on the bus guide, teach and share desired behaviors before disciplining students for making poor behavior choices. Those same adults are proactive and preventative before reacting to a student's misbehavior.

To that end, PBIS practitioners try to "catch kids doing great." They praise students for making good choices by providing them with "feedback." Feedback can take the form of words of encouragement, a literal pat on the back or a tangible ticket or coupon.

Typically, the majority of our of students make good, positive, appropriate decisions regarding their behavior from day to day. PBIS encourages those good decisions. Students that may have behavioral challenges are supported uniquely and appropriately.

PBIS is a special, deliberate approach to school discipline—an approach that supports students where they are and allows them to thrive in the school setting.