

Teacher Toolkit:

**HARMFUL AND DEROGATORY
LANGUAGE IN SCHOOLS****GUIDE 2: CREATING A POSITIVE CLASSROOM
ENVIRONMENT THROUGH INCLUSIVE CLASSROOM RULES****A. Understand the Importance of Inclusivity**

Inclusivity means creating a school environment where every student feels respected and valued, leading to improved academic performance, enhanced social skills, and greater overall well-being.

B. Identify Key Values and Principles

Determine the core values for your classroom, such as respect, empathy, kindness, and fairness. Using inclusive language and celebrating diversity are practices that support your established classroom values.

C. Engage Students in the Rule-Making Process

Involve students in creating rules to ensure they reflect on their needs and perspectives, and hold class discussions about the importance of inclusivity and what it means to each student.

D. Drafting the Rules

1. **Clear and Positive Language:** Write rules in clear, positive language that states what students should do rather than what they shouldn't do.
2. **Specific and Actionable:** Make rules clear so students know exactly what behavior is expected. Clearly outline the results of different behaviors so students understand the impact of their actions and the importance of following the rules.
3. **Inclusive Examples:** Use examples that reflect diverse cultures, backgrounds, and abilities to illustrate the rules.

What's Important: When school and classroom rules are not inclusive, it's crucial to address what's important - that every student's needs and perspectives are considered. This means evaluating and revising rules to promote fairness and respect, and actively engaging with students to understand their experiences and challenges.

Prioritizing inclusivity helps create a supportive environment where all students can thrive.



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Best Practices for Implementing Inclusive Classroom Rules

1. Reinforce the Rules:

- Post rules visibly and discuss them regularly.
- Model inclusive behavior.
- Encourage student reflection on their behavior.

2. Monitor and Adjust

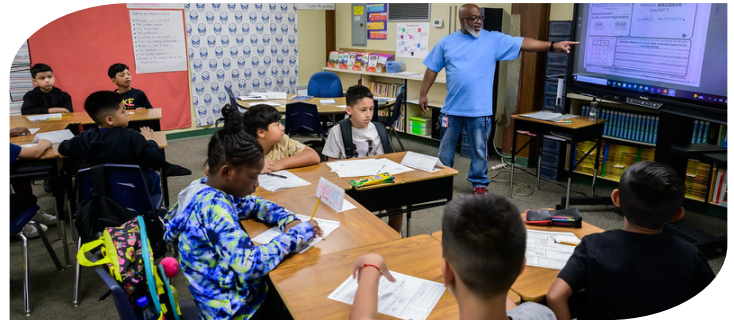
- Gather student feedback and revisit in conversation to adapt rules as needed.

3. Involve Parents and Families

- Communicate rules to parents and encourage discussion at home.

4. Evaluate Impact

- Be mindful of and celebrate positive behavior and inclusivity.



Steps for Resolving Conflicts [Between Students]

1. Identify the Conflict

Acknowledge the conflict and assess student safety, meet with students separately, letting them each share their perspective individually.

2. Identify Needs

Encourage students to express their emotions and needs through “I” statements. “I feel ___ when ___ because ____.”

3. Brainstorm Solutions

Facilitate brainstorming of solutions and discuss their fairness and feasibility.

4. Agree on a Solution

Help students reach a mutual agreement and plan its implementation.



This document was created in collaboration with:



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