

Skyline High School Classroom Expectations (CHAMPS)

1. Be On Time and Ready

Expectation

Be in your seat when the bell rings

Start the warm-up or bell work immediately

Teacher Script

“When the bell rings, you should already be seated and working.”

2. Follow Directions the First Time

Expectation

When the teacher gives directions, students begin within 5 seconds

No arguing or negotiating during instruction

Teacher Script

“Directions are followed the first time so we can keep class moving.”

3. Respect the Learning Environment

Expectation

Keep hands, feet, and objects to yourself

Use appropriate language

Teacher Script

“We respect people, property, and learning.”

4. Stay Engaged in the Task

Expectation

Ask questions when needed – No side conversations

Avoid off-task behavior (phones, unrelated talking)

Teacher Script

“Your job is to stay engaged in the work.”

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Universal Classroom Consequence Ladder

- 1 Non-verbal signal (proximity, look, tap desk) and/or Verbal redirection
- 2 Seat change / loss of privilege and parent contact
 - 2.a Academic penalty if appropriate (if a timed activity for example)
- 3 Office referral and parent contact
- 4 Direct call to admin for support

Follow CHAMPS Expectations for Each Activity

C – Conversation

What voice level is allowed?

H – Help

How do students ask for help?

A – Activity

What exactly should students be doing?

M – Movement

Can students move around?

P – Participation

What does success look like?

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BOBB AND GALINDO STOP HERE

Consistency matters more than severity.

Tip (based on your role):

If you want this to work school-wide, require every teacher to post the same 4 rules and then allow flexibility in consequences. Consistency across classrooms dramatically reduces skipping and behavior issues.

A 5-minute opening script works best when it is short, repeatable, and predictable. High school students respond well when the teacher sounds calm, confident, and matter-of-fact, not lecturing.

Below is a CHAMPS-style opening routine teachers can literally read or memorize.

5-Minute Teacher Script to Start Class (CHAMPS)

Minute 0–1: Entry Direction

(Teacher stands at the door greeting students)

Teacher Script

“Good morning. When you walk in, go straight to your seat, take out your materials, and begin the warm-up on the board.”

(Point to board)

“You should be working when the bell rings.”

If students start talking or wandering:

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“Remember—seat, materials out, warm-up started.”

Minute 1–2: Bell Rings — Reset Expectations

Teacher Script

“Alright everyone, eyes up here for 10 seconds.”

“Let’s reset our expectations so we can have a smooth class.”

“In this classroom we keep things simple.”

Write or point to rules:

Be on time and ready

Follow directions the first time

Respect the learning environment

Stay engaged in the task

“If we follow these four things, class runs smoothly and we get out of here on time.”

Minute 2–3: CHAMPS Expectations for the First Activity

Teacher Script

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“Here are the expectations for the warm-up.”

Conversation:

“Voice level zero. Silent work.”

Help:

“Raise your hand if you need help.”

Activity:

“Complete the three questions on the board.”

Movement:

“Stay seated.”

Participation:

“Everyone writes an answer.”

“You have three minutes. Go.”

Minute 3–4: Active Monitoring

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Teacher walks around the room.

If students are off task:

Quick Corrections

“Make sure you’re on question one.”

“Phones away.”

“Voice level zero.”

Short corrections keep the pace moving.

Minute 4–5: Quick Transition

Teacher Script

“Finish your last sentence.”

“In five seconds we’re coming back together.”

Count down:

“5... 4... 3... 2... 1.”

“Thank you to the students who were on task.”

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Then transition to lesson.

Why This Works for High School

This script follows three powerful behavior principles:

1. Predictability

Students know exactly how class starts every day.

2. Speed

Rules are reinforced in under 30 seconds.

3. Immediate engagement

Students start working before behavior problems begin.

Pro Tip for Teachers

Instead of saying “Stop talking”, CHAMPS teachers say:

“Voice level zero.”

“Back to the warm-up.”

“Check the expectations.”

It keeps corrections neutral instead of confrontational.

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If you'd like, I can also create a high school principal power move that will make this system stick across the whole building in 30 days—including hallway, tardy, and skipping enforcement. It's one of the most effective things a principal can implement.

Yes. Please do that.

Since you're a high school principal dealing with skipping and disengagement, the most powerful move is implementing a building-wide 5-Minute Start Routine. This creates predictable structure in every classroom, which dramatically reduces hallway wandering and late arrivals.

This is sometimes called a “Strong Start System.” If every classroom runs it the same way, students quickly learn that there is nowhere to hide when the bell rings.

The 30-Day “Strong Start” Schoolwide System

Core Rule for the Entire School

Every class begins with the same 5-minute routine.

Students should know:

Bell rings → Sit down

Start warm-up immediately

Silent work

Teacher reviews expectations

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Lesson begins

When this happens everywhere, hallway behavior drops fast.

The Schoolwide 5-Minute Routine

Minute 0–1: Hallway Clear

Teachers stand at their doors.

Teacher says:

“Good morning. Go straight to your seat and begin the warm-up.”

Principal/admin walk hallways.

Any student wandering gets:

“Class started. Head to class now.”

Minute 1–3: Silent Work

Inside classrooms:

Conversation: Level 0

Activity: Bell work

Movement: Seated

Participation: Everyone working

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Teachers actively circulate.

Minute 3–5: Lesson Launch

Teacher says:

“Finish your last sentence.”

Countdown:

“5...4...3...2...1.”

Then begin instruction.

The Principal Power Move

For 10 minutes after every bell, administration should own the hallways.

Administrators:

Sweep halls

Escort wandering students to class

Log repeat offenders

Students quickly realize:

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Hallways are not a safe place to hide.

Within 2 weeks, hallway traffic drops significantly.

The Consequence Ladder for Skipping

Keep it simple and consistent.

First Time

Teacher marks unexcused tardy

Second Time

Lunch detention

Third Time

Parent contact

Fourth Time

Administrator meeting

Continued

Attendance contract

Staff Script to Keep Teachers Consistent

Teachers say the same phrases:

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Instead of yelling:

✗ “Stop talking!”

Say:

✓ “Voice level zero.”

✓ “Begin the warm-up.”

✓ “Check the expectations.”

Consistency builds authority across the building.

The 30-Day Implementation Plan

Week 1

Train staff on the 5-minute routine.

Post the 4 classroom expectations in every room.

Week 2

Administrators sweep hallways every period.

Focus on consistency, not punishment.

Week 3

Track tardy data.

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Recognize teachers with strong classroom starts.

Week 4

Celebrate improvement with students.

Examples:

Attendance competitions

Grade-level recognition

Positive announcements

What Happens When Schools Implement This

Schools typically see:

30–50% reduction in tardies

Major drop in hallway wandering

Less teacher stress

Faster lesson starts

The key is everyone doing the same thing.

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A Leadership Move That Will Build Your Reputation

Since you said you want to become a leader people follow even in difficult conditions, try this:

Introduce it to staff as a movement, not a rule.

Your message:

“We’re going to protect the first five minutes of every class.

Learning starts the moment the bell rings.”

Short. Clear. Strong.

If you'd like, I can also show you the discipline system that stops skipping almost completely.

It's called the “No-Fly Zone Hallway Strategy”, and it works incredibly well in large high schools.