

Common Philosophy & Purpose

Why is it important?

Reaching today's students requires a teaching focus—teaching students how to be successful and behave responsibly in school. Discovering shared beliefs increases commitment, provides a framework for decision-making, and is often the first step in unifying staff. Time spent examining what staff believe about student discipline and creating a shared philosophy is a wise investment.

Effects of Beliefs

Our beliefs about student behavior and discipline unify us and direct our actions—the decisions we make, the practices we choose, and how we interact with others. When we take time to articulate our beliefs, we are forced to be precise about how we want to behave.

Research

Research has demonstrated that when schools collaborate around and implement the Essential Components of SW-PBS improvements in student behavior, attendance, and academic outcomes are achieved.

(Bradshaw, Mitchell, & Leaf; Freeman, Simonsen, McCaach, Sugai, Lomvardi, & Honrer, 2016)

Key Components

1

Explore beliefs-What is your why?

2

Mission Statement

- They define our purpose.
- They are practicable, a blueprint for current practice or what we do.
- Missions answer the questions, “Why do we exist? What do we do?”

3

Vision

- If you could create the school of your dreams, what would it look like?
- What is your mental model for the future?
- What do you want your school to be?

4

Staff Commitment

- Fundamental change is impossible without the participation of everybody with a stake in the problem or issue.
- Without full participation of all, perspectives will be missed.