

Clarifying Expected Behavior

Overview

Clarifying Expected Behavior involves selecting schoolwide expectations and developing a matrix that further defines expected behaviors across school settings.

Expectations: defines the kind of people that you want your students to be (e.g., respectful, responsible, safe, etc.).

Behaviors/Rules: specifies tasks students are to do to meet the schoolwide expectations.

"Simply put, if the staff expect students to achieve and behave appropriately, they will. Conversely, if the staff expect the students to under-achieve and behave inappropriately, they will."
(Colvin, 2007)

Benefits for Students and Staff

- 1 Creates a vision of a successful student.
- 2 Allows for proactive teaching of behaviors for success.
- 3 Conveys a positive message about success at school.
- 4 Provides a framework to guide staff decisions about discipline.
- 5 Aligns staff through use of consistent language.

Why It Is Important

A dependable system of rules and procedures provides structure for students and helps them to be engaged with instructional tasks (Brophy, 1998).

Teaching rules and routines to students at the beginning of the year and enforcing them consistently across time increases student academic achievement and task engagement (Evertson & Emmer, 1982; Johnson, Stoner, & Green, 1996).

Clearly stating expectations and consistently supporting them lends credibility to a teacher's authority (Good & Brophy, 2000).

