**Example**

**Beliefs List**

The following beliefs reflect current literature and the best practices that guide how schools across the country undertake discipline initiatives. These, as well as others you may think of, provide a foundation of thinking to guide your work.

* Education today must include a balanced focus on both academic achievement and social competency.
* Students today may not have had the opportunity to learn expected behavior. We must not assume students know the behaviors and social skills that lead to success at school and in life.
* Behavior is learned; therefore, responsible behavior can be taught.
* Student discipline is best achieved through instruction rather than punishment.
* Student behavior can be taught using the same strategies used to teach academics.
* Unexpected behavior presents the student with an opportunity to learn and the educator with an opportunity to teach.
* Punishment focuses on what not to do and does not teach the child alternative successful ways to behave.
* For behavior change to occur, we must use positive approaches that strengthen teacher-student relationships.
* Efforts to help students become socially competent require ongoing teaching, encouragement, and correction.
* Students need and want high standards for their behavior. Maintaining high expectations does not require “get tough” or punitive approaches.
* Successful change in discipline practices requires building-wide, systematic approaches.
* Student discipline is a shared responsibility and requires a combined effort by all staff. We all “own” each and every student and are jointly committed to their success.
* Student discipline is a collaborative effort. All staff must work together, striving for consensus on procedures and consistent implementation.
* Services for students with chronic or intense unexpected behaviors are most effective within the context of a larger building-wide commitment to the social development of all students.

An activity form is provided on the next page.

**Beliefs Activity Form**

Use the questions below to guide your team to develop a list of common beliefs about your students and school.

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| 1. Individually list why you want your school to develop a positive and proactive approach to discipline. |
| 2. Review the list of example belief statements and create a common list of beliefs of the team. |