



PBISAZ Newsletter

A collaborative effort between the Arizona Department of Education, Universities, Schools, Students and Families.

www.pbisaz.org

May 2008

Nine Schools Honored at RTI/PBIS Conference

Nine schools were recognized at the December PBIS/RTI Conference for their exceptional implementation of School-wide Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (SWPBIS). The schools met a high standard that included full implementation of all PBIS school-wide components, demonstrated quality of implementation, and continued review and progress in their PBIS effort. Each school had also demonstrated substantial decreases in their office referrals and suspensions and shared that data with the state PBIS team.

These schools demonstrated that SWPBIS is appropriate at all grade levels. The seven public schools that were honored included two high schools, two middle schools, and three elementary schools. Four of the schools had implemented PBIS since 2002. Cienega High School, in Vail Unified School District, started their PBISAZ project the first year the school opened. Since completing the project in 2006, Cienega has expanded its SWPBIS system and integrated it with its RTI efforts.

Colonel Johnston Elementary School, in the Ft. Huachuca Accommodation School District, successfully continued PBIS implementation through restructuring of their school from a 1st through 3rd grade to a Kindergarten through 2nd grade school with its attendant influx of new staff and children. It meant retraining and refocusing to include the kindergarten students. Two additional schools in the district began implementation in 2007.

Marana High School and Marana Middle School, in the Marana Unified School District, joined PBISAZ while the elementary schools were trained by Tucson LINKS. Both have provided many innovations designed to make SWPBIS more relevant for middle and high schools students. In addition, all the schools in Marana USD are now involved in PBIS at both school and district levels.

Liberty Elementary in the Paradise Valley School District and Payson Elementary and Rim Country Middle schools in the Payson Unified School District joined the PBISAZ project in 2005. Both districts are gradually adding schools to the SWPBIS team and both are active in the statewide SWPBIS planning team.

The two charter schools that were honored were Dobson Academy, a K-8 school in Chandler, and Desert View Academy, an elementary school in Yuma. Dobson Academy is in its fourth year of implementation. Their initial implementation concentrated heavily on training so that all staff were included. They continue to use data to share the school's progress and to problem-solve, with staff, the areas needing additional support.

Current PBISAZ Participants

2007-2009 Cohort

- Fort Huachuca Accommodation District**
 - Colonial Johnston Elementary
 - General Myer Elementary
 - Colonial Smith Middle
- Saddle Mountain Unified School District**
 - Ruth Fisher Elementary
 - Tonopah Valley High
- Friendly House Inc.** - Academic del Pueblo
- Tucson Unified District** - Ochoa Elementary
- Union Elementary District** - Union Elementary
- Skyline Tech High School Inc.** - Skyline Tech High School
- Paradise Valley Unified School District** - Cactus View Elementary
- Creighton School District** - Loma Linda Elementary
- Deer Valley School District** - Sunrise Elementary
- San Carlos Unified School District**
- Payson School District** - Payson High School
- Sunnyside District** - Wildcat School
- Precision Academy

2006-2008 Cohort

- Success School District** - Arizona Charter Academy
- Scottsdale Unified School District** - Sierra Vista Academy
- Paradise Valley Unified District**
 - Hidden Hills Elementary
 - North Ranch Elementary
- Bisbee Unified School District**
 - Bisbee High School
 - Greenway Primary School
 - Lowell School
 - Bisbee Middle School
- Harvest Power Community Development, Inc.**
 - Harvest Preparatory Academy
- Marana Unified School District**
 - Mountain View High School
 - Marana Middle School
 - Tortolita Middle School
 - Marana High School
- Pima Unified District**
 - Pima Elementary School
 - Pima Junior High
 - Pima High School
- Pearce Elementary School District** - Pearce Elementary School
- Crane School District #13**
 - Centennial Middle
 - Crane Middle
 - Pueblo Elementary
 - Valley Horizon Elementary
- Gadsden School District #32**
 - Desert View Elementary
 - Gadsden Elementary
- Somerton School District**
 - Somerton Middle
 - Tierra del Sol Elementary
- Yuma School District #1**
 - Castle Dome Middle
 - M.E. Post Elementary
 - Pecan Grove Elementary
 - Roosevelt Elementary

Desert View Academy, in its third year of implementation, has also found a number of creative ways to implement school-wide and secondary supports for their students. They have restructured their environment, including the use of street signs to display their school-wide expectations, and added a behavior intervention group to address students needing additional support.

Recognition of schools implementing SWPBIS will continue to be a yearly focus of the state PBIS Leadership team. Next year, we expect many more schools will be honored for their exemplary implementation.

U of A Group Gets Approval for Data Sharing Study with PBS Schools

Gita Upreti, University of Arizona

Recently, the University of Arizona approved a study of staff perceptions of behavior patterns in schools practicing Positive Behavior Support in the state of Arizona. The project's Principal Investigators, Dr. Carl Liaupsin, Ed.D., Gita Upreti, M.A., and Corey Liebowitz, M.A., will be recruiting participating schools this spring and summer for the study, which is slated to begin in the fall. "It's a true experimental design," says Upreti, who co-designed the study with Liaupsin and Liebowitz this winter, "and we've made it as easy to implement as possible to lighten the load on participating schools." Staff members in participating schools will fill out two surveys that will be compared to behavior patterns in their schools under different data sharing conditions. "We expect these results to contribute to our understanding of how data sharing affects staff awareness in schools implementing PBS," adds Liaupsin, an associate professor of Special Education who is also a nationally recognized expert in the field and has been working with school-wide PBS initiatives since 1999. The study, which runs from August to December of 2008, was originally designed to take a year. "The use of this design allows us to get the information needed in half the time," says Liebowitz, "and because we are measuring staff data rather than student data, we wanted to ensure that we made it as expedient as possible. We are also offering participating schools 20 hours of behavioral consultation in exchange for their participation."

For more information on this study or to find out how your school can participate, contact Gita Upreti at

upreti@email.arizona.edu.

Scholarships Available

Northern Arizona University has scholarships available for teachers who are pursuing a Masters (M.Ed) in Special Education and full teacher certification in severe disabilities. The emphasis of this program of studies at NAU is in Low Incidence Disabilities (LID) and Positive Behavior Support (PBS).

If you are interested you must apply for the scholarship. If selected, your tuition and fees would be covered. You would then have to devote two years of teaching students with LID for every one year of full time funding you receive. For more details or to obtain a copy of the application, see www.nau.edu/ihd/pbscares/.

Save the Date

2008 RTI and PBIS Conference
Wednesday October 22, 2008
Black Canyon Conference Center

This is a conference that addresses the needs of administrators at all school and district levels.

For information on how your school district can participate please contact:

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