

## Learning Improves With A Positive School Climate

Woodland Elementary uses a positive and preventative approach to behavior at school. The program is called Positive Behavioral Interventions and Support, or PBIS.

PBIS builds school-wide systems of support that include proactive strategies for defining, teaching, and supporting appropriate student behaviors. PBIS teaches behavioral expectations and rewards students for following them. This is a much more positive approach than waiting for misbehavior to occur before responding. The purpose of school-wide PBIS is to establish a positive school climate in which appropriate behavior is the norm.

PBIS is based on a hierarchical model of prevention with primary, secondary, and tertiary levels of intervention.

- Primary, or universal, strategies apply to all children in the program, and it is expected that these strategies will be sufficient to guide the majority of children to make good choices.
- Secondary prevention strategies are generally provided in small group settings and focus on the development of social skills, emotional literacy, and problem solving techniques.
- When children have needs that transcend the secondary level, intensive and individualized interventions are provided. These tertiary-level strategies require a functional behavioral assessment and interventions that are individualized to help the student be successful.