



# Positive Behavior Systems: Revealing the Science to Improve Climate and Student Outcomes

Lead Presenter: Christopher Balow, Ph.D.  
*Chief Academic Officer*



# Our Agenda



Review the basic elements and processes of positive behavior support systems



Review of efficacy literature



Understand why schools have not achieved desired outcomes with current programs and approaches



Learn the 5 essential evidenced-based components of an effective positive behavior support system



Understand how these essential components can fit within your current MTSS and/or PBIS initiatives.



Learn practical strategies and techniques to implement positive behavior approaches using a technology platform called "Hero"

# Background on Positive Behavior Support Systems (PBSS)

# Positive Behavior Support Systems (PBSS)

*Is not a packaged curriculum, nor a scripted intervention.*

*PBSS is an approach that combines:*

1

Evidence-based practices from Positive Behavior Support (PBS; Horner, 1990; Sugai et al., 2000).

2

Universal behavioral prevention (Walker, Horner, Sugai, & Bullis, 1996).

3

Instructional focus on teaching positive and prosocial behaviors (Horner et al., 2009; Sugai & Horner, 2009b).



# Designing Multi-Tiered Systems for Student Success

## ACADEMIC SYSTEMS

### Intensive, Individual Interventions

- Individual Students
- Assessment-based
- High Intensity

### Targeted Group Interventions

- Some students (at-risk)
- High efficiency
- Rapid response

### Universal Interventions

- All students
- Preventive, proactive

## BEHAVIORAL SYSTEMS

### Intensive, Individual Interventions

- Indv. Students
- Assessment-based
- Intense, durable procedures

### Targeted Group Interventions

- Some students (at-risk)
- High efficiency
- Rapid response

### Universal Interventions

- All settings, all students
- Preventive, proactive

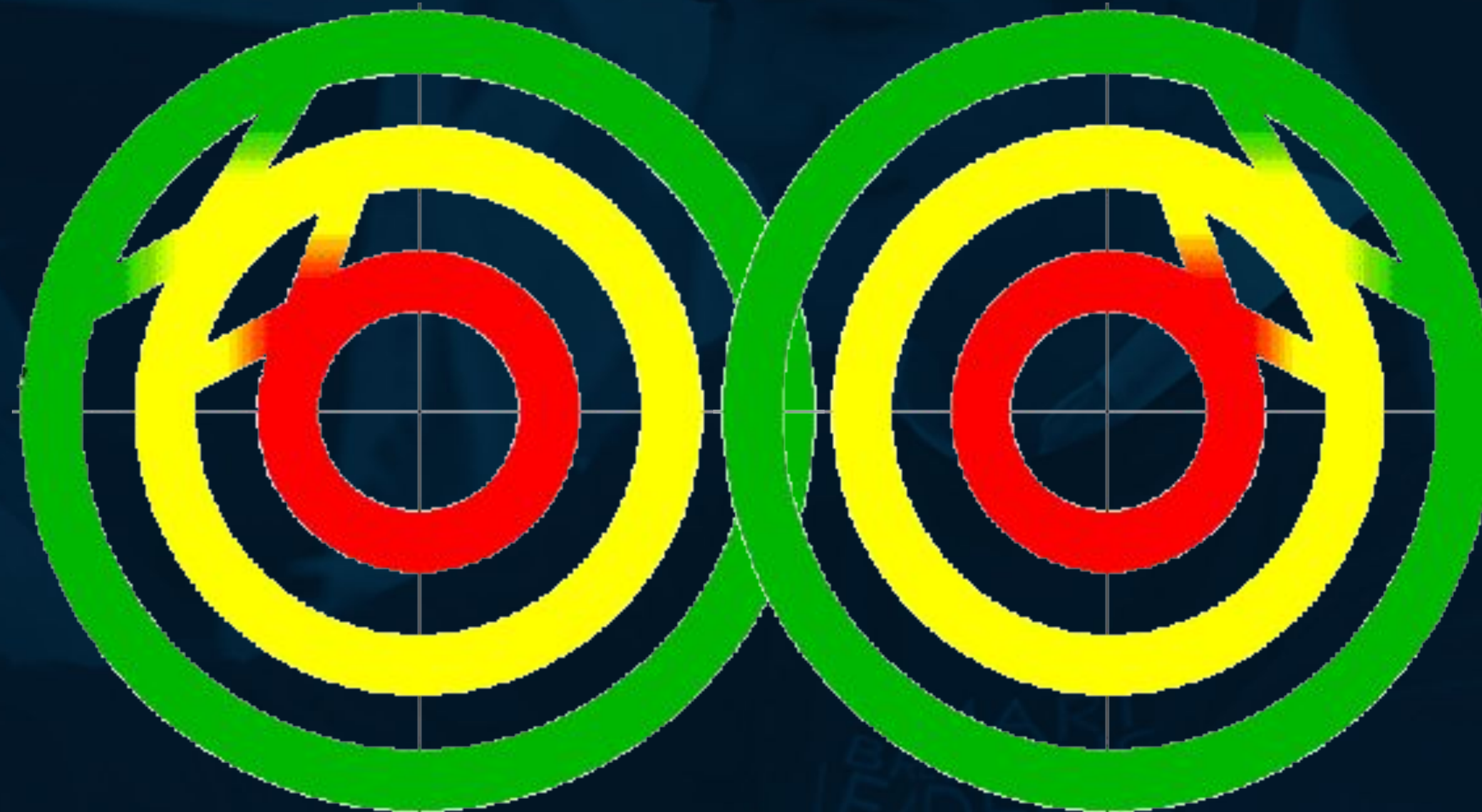


# The Interaction of Learning and S-E-B

ACADEMIC  
LEARNING,  
MASTERY AND  
ACHIEVEMENT



INDEPENDENT  
LEARNER

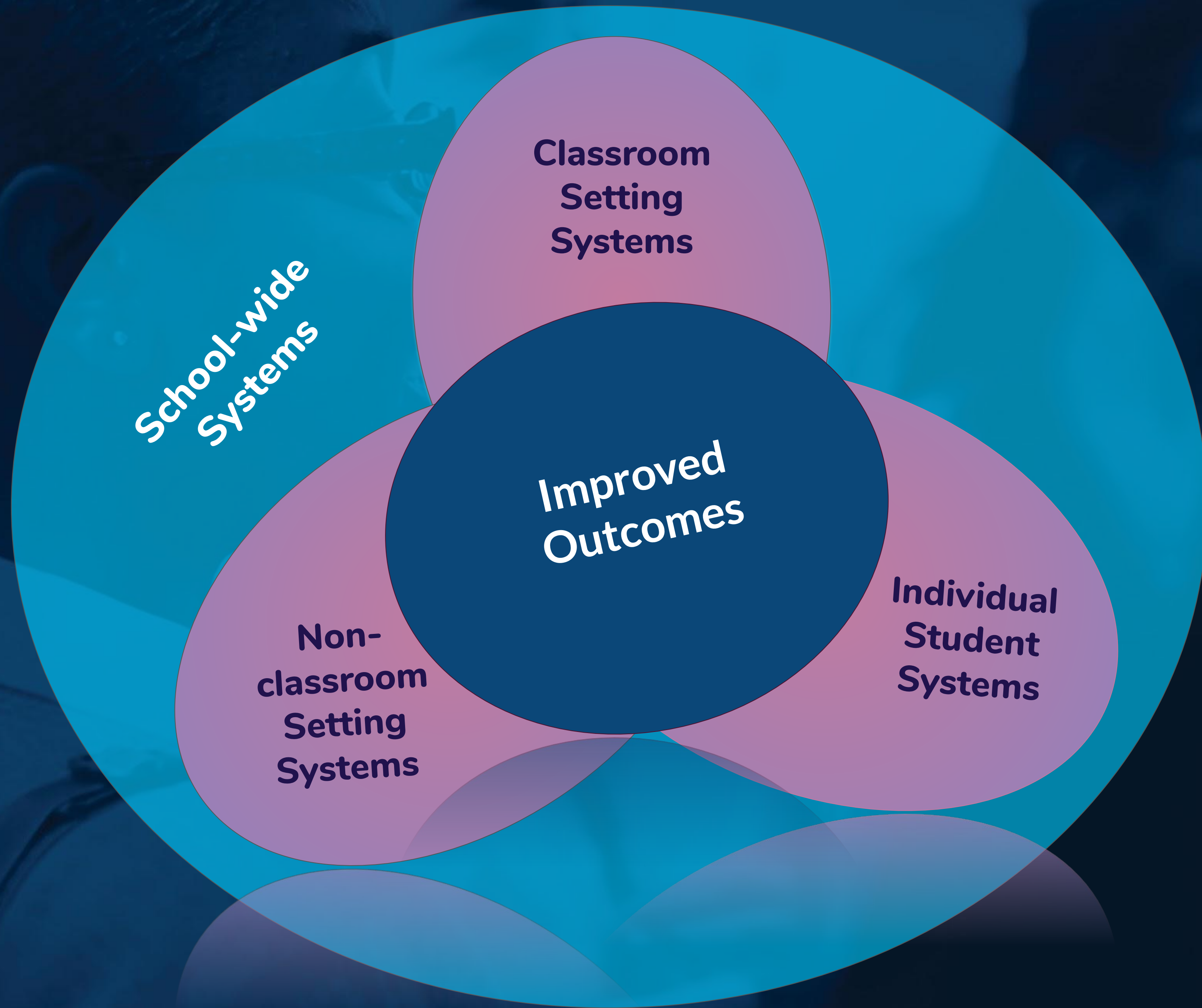


SOCIAL,  
EMOTIONAL, AND  
BEHAVIORAL  
DEVELOPMENT



SELF- MANAGER





# School-Wide Positive Behavior Support Systems

# 6 Components of Positive Behavior Support Systems

1

Establish commitment and maintain team

2

Establish school-wide expectations

3

Establish an on-going system of rewards

4

Establish a system for responding to behavioral violations

5

Establish a data system to monitor progress and aid in decision making

6

Arrange for consistent implementation and utilize district level support



# 6 Components of Positive Behavior Support Systems

1

Establish commitment and  
maintain team



maintain team

Establish commitment and

# 6 Components of Positive Behavior Support Systems

2

Establish school-wide expectations

expectations

Establish school-wide



Classroom	Hallway	Playground/Recess
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●Always do your best</li> <li>●Be on task</li> <li>●Be cooperative</li> <li>●Follow adults directions</li> <li>●Keep hands, feet and objects to yourself</li> <li>●Share/help others</li> <li>●Use inside voice</li> <li>●Recycle</li> <li>●Clean up after yourself</li> <li>●Take care of your own belongings</li> <li>●Be polite</li> <li>●Put materials away</li> <li>●Be prepared</li> <li>●Follow instructions</li> <li>●Raise your hand</li> <li>●Listen to others</li> <li>●Stay in the classroom</li> <li>●Think before you act</li> <li>●Use appropriate language</li> <li>●Keep pets at home</li> <li>●Have homework completed by the time school starts</li> <li>●Accept consequences for your actions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●Use the correct door</li> <li>●Walk on the right</li> <li>●Keep hands and feet to yourself</li> <li>●Inside voices</li> <li>●Hold door open for others</li> <li>●Pick up trash</li> <li>●Turn in lost items to the office</li> <li>●Walk quietly</li> <li>●Be on time</li> <li>●Allow others to pass</li> <li>●Greet others politely</li> <li>●Listen and follow directions</li> <li>●Close lockers gently</li> <li>●Keep hallways clean</li> <li>●Head directly to your destination</li> <li>●Pay attention when walking</li> <li>●Make sure to have a pass</li> <li>●Walking only</li> <li>●Keep our walls clean</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●Use kind words to others</li> <li>●Involve everyone</li> <li>●Share equipment</li> <li>●Follow game's rules</li> <li>●Listen and follow adult directions</li> <li>●Keep hands and feet to yourself</li> <li>●Use equipment properly</li> <li>●Put equipment back into place</li> <li>●Take turns</li> <li>●Defend victim being bullied</li> <li>●Ask aids for help</li> <li>●Play nicely</li> <li>●Think safety</li> <li>●Use your time wisely</li> <li>●Head back to classroom on time</li> <li>●Keep area clean</li> </ul>





# Develop Rules of Behavior

## The Respect School

- Respect others
- Respect property
- Respect yourself

## Eagle PRIDE

- Preparation
- Responsibility
- Integrity
- Diligence
- Earn Respect

## Formula 4 Success

- Respect
- Responsibility
- Ready-to-learn
- Re-thinking

## HIGH 5s

- Be respectful
- Be responsible
- Be there, be ready
- Follow directions
- Hands/feet to self

## RAMS Rules

- Responsibility & Respect
- Academic Achievement
- Motivation
- Success



# Matrix of Expected Behavior

## THE CHATSWORTH SCHOOL – CODE OF CONDUCT

<u>CODE OF CONDUCT</u>	<u>CLASSROOMS AND ALL SETTINGS</u>	<u>HALLWAYS</u>	<u>BUS</u>
I am <b>RESPECTFUL</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Listen politely</li> <li>✓ Raise hand to speak</li> <li>✓ Speak respectfully</li> <li>✓ Use kind words</li> <li>✓ Ask permission to use things</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Walk silently</li> <li>✓ Keep hallways neat and clean</li> <li>✓ Keep hands off walls and displays</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Use a quiet voice</li> <li>✓ Speak nicely to others</li> </ul>
I am <b>RESPONSIBLE</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Follow directions</li> <li>✓ Make good choices</li> <li>✓ Accept consequences</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Follow directions</li> <li>✓ Make good choices</li> <li>✓ Accept consequences</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Follow directions</li> <li>✓ Make good choices</li> <li>✓ Accept consequences</li> </ul>
I am <b>SAFE</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Keep hands and feet to self</li> <li>✓ Stay in assigned areas</li> <li>✓ Sit in chair safely</li> <li>✓ Use furniture and supplies appropriately</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Walk in single, straight line</li> <li>✓ Keep a reasonable distance between self and others</li> <li>✓ Walk safely up and down steps</li> <li>✓ Keep hands and feet to self</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Stay in your seat</li> <li>✓ Keep seat belt buckled</li> <li>✓ Keep hands and objects inside the bus</li> <li>✓ Keep hands and feet to self</li> </ul>
I am <b>PREPARED</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Come prepared</li> <li>✓ Work carefully</li> <li>✓ Complete your work</li> <li>✓ Do your best</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Walk with a purpose</li> <li>✓ Face forward with hands at your sides</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Be on time outside waiting</li> <li>✓ Sit in assigned seat</li> <li>✓ Buckle your seat belt</li> </ul>

# 6 Components of Positive Behavior Support Systems

3

Establish an on-going system of rewards

4

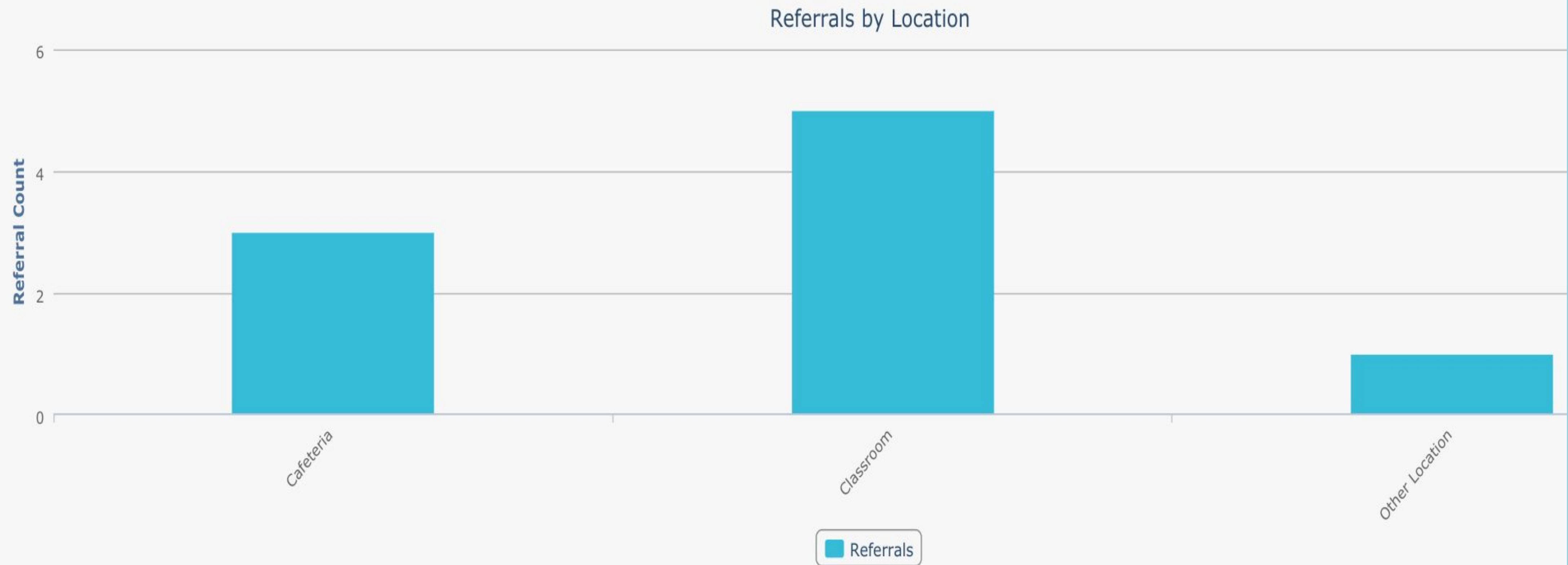
Establish a system for responding to behavioral violations



<b>+</b>	<b>Expected Prosocial Behaviors Classroom and Common Areas</b>	<b>Responses: Positive Responses, Incentives, Rewards</b>
<b>—</b>	<b>Inappropriate, Challenging Behavior Continuum:</b>	<b>Responses that Facilitate Behavioral Change:</b>
	<b>Intensity I: Annoying Behavior</b>	I: Corrective Responses
	<b>Intensity II: Disruptive/Interfering</b>	II: Classroom-based Consequences & Positive Behavioral Practice
	<b>Intensity III: Persistent/Antisocial</b>	III: Classroom Removal, Teacher/Administrator Consequences & Positive Behavioral Practice **
	<b>Intensity IV: Severe/Dangerous</b>	IV: Classroom Removal, Administrative/Code of Conduct Response & Restorative/Positive Practice **
<b>** Evaluate the need for Functional Assessment/Strategic Intervention</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>(Knoff, H. 2018)</b></span>		

# Example of Critical Data:

## NUMBER OF REFERRALS PER LOCATION IN THE SCHOOL





# The Evidence for PBSS

# PBSS Impact on Student Behavior

Many studies have supported the impact of PBSS on student behavior.

Recent, large statewide study in Georgia found statistically significantly fewer behavioral incidents and suspensions in schools implementing PBSS with fidelity.

The effect sizes averaged 0.50 across study domains

Effective for:

- reducing disciplinary exclusions
- disciplinary incidents
- improvements on student behavioral outcomes in schools.



# PBSS Impact on Student Behavior

Recent study of 1,200 schools in Florida found statistically significantly fewer behavioral incidents and suspensions in schools implementing PBSS with fidelity.

Decreasing trends of ODRs, ISSs, and OSSs.

Schools with the most robust implementations realized lower ODRs and had corresponding fewer ISSs and OSSs.

# PBSS Impact on Student Behavior

A nationally representative sample of 254 secondary schools found:

Schools in which students perceived greater fairness and clarity of rules has less delinquent behavior and less student victimization.



# PBSS Impact on SEL Competency

*Large longitudinal study indicated that students in schools that used positive behavior systems displayed:*



Less disruptive behavior problems



Better concentration



Less office discipline referrals



No impact on suspensions



Better emotional regulation



More prosocial behavior

*(Bradshaw, C. et. al., 2012)*

# PBSS Impact on SEL Competency

The effect sizes were as strong as, or stronger, on the improved **prosocial behavior** than disruptive behavior.

These findings suggest that reduction in behavior problems **and** improvements in social-emotional skills result from the use of positive behavior systems.



# PBSS Can Improve School Climate

- ❖ Improved high school teacher perception of school climate can be achieved by having a successful behavior management system in place such as PBIS (Bebee, S. 2015).
- ❖ Large longitudinal study revealed a significant effect of positive behavior systems on the school overall organizational health:
  - Resource influence
  - Staff affiliation
  - Academic emphasis
  - Collegial leadership
  - Institutional integrity
- ❖ Whole-school positive behavior systems may be a potential contextual mediator of student academic performance

# PBSS Impact on Internalizing Behaviors

Study shows PBSS mechanisms and adding evidence-based interventions can support students with anxiety, depression and trauma

1. Improving the clarity and predictability of the social environment
2. Discouraging problem behaviors that can threaten student safety
3. Allowing instruction to take place
4. Teaching effective responses to perceived environmental threats

*(McIntosh, K., , Ty, S., V., Miller, L., 2013)*



# Disproportionality

- In PBSS schools the disparity in the rates of Black and White students referred to the office was **smaller** at each time point, and **unchanged** across the 3 years
- In non-PBSS schools, the disparity in the rates of Black and White students referred to the office was **larger** at each time point and **increased** slightly across the 3 years
- The extent to which PBSS is effective in reducing racial disparities in disciplinary exclusion is currently unclear, particularly at the secondary level, where racial disparities are most pronounced

*(Losen & Martinez, 2013; Vincent, C., et. al., 2013)*

- Overall OSS rates were 20% lower for black students for schools implementing Tier 1 PBSS with fidelity

*(McIntosh, et. al., 2018)*

# Other PBSS Impacts

*Effect Sizes were moderate to high for positive behavior systems improving:*

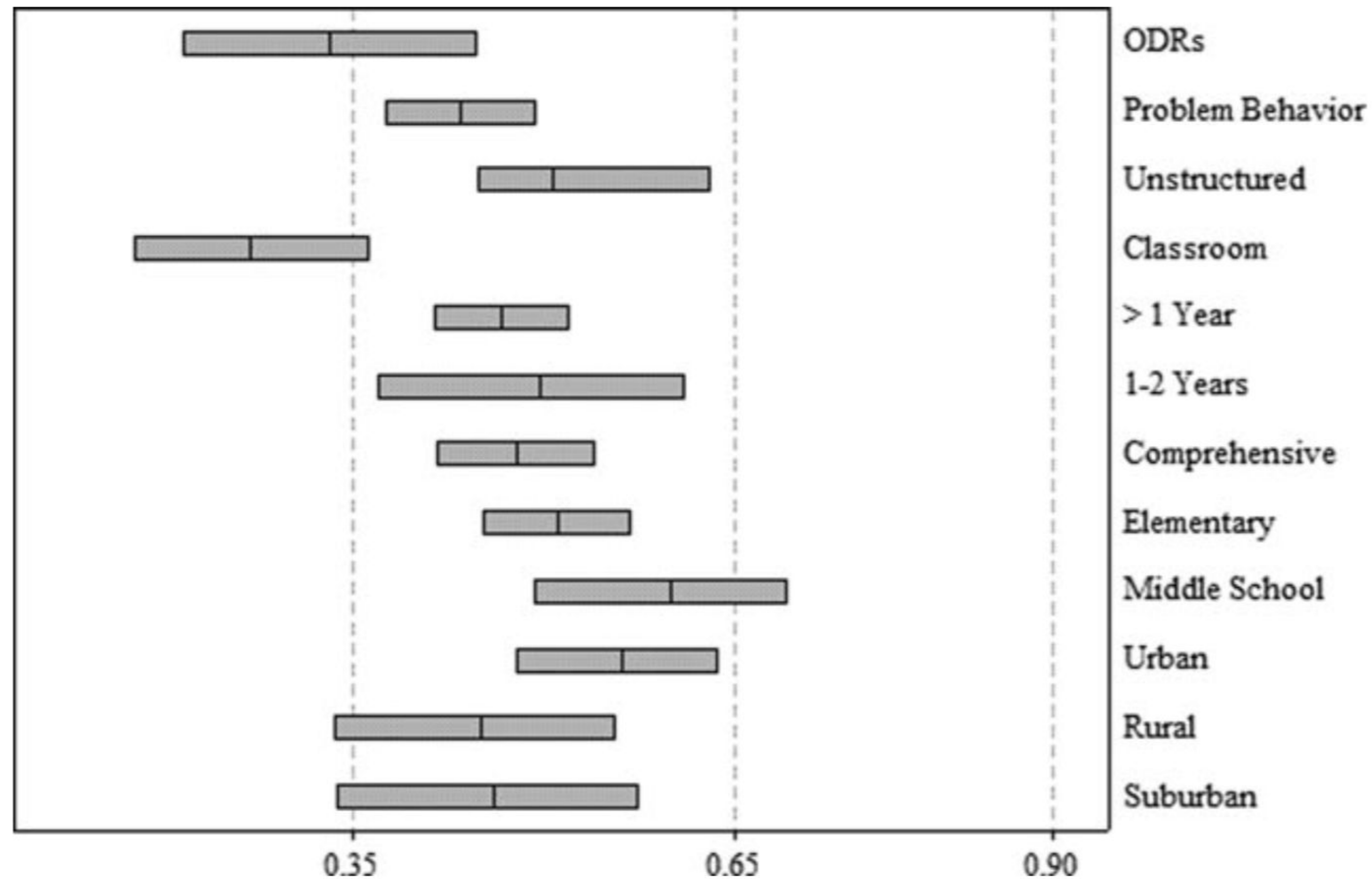
Teacher perceptions of their ability to:

- ❖ Communicate and cooperate with parents
- ❖ Support students in the learning process

*(Calderella, P. et. al. 2011)*



# Effect Sizes of PBSS



# Current Trends in American Schools

- Adopt approaches to address social or societal characteristics in their school community (e.g., Cultural Competence, poverty awareness)
- Adopt approaches to address student-specific problems (e.g., Trauma Sensitive Schools)
- Adopt approaches to improve students' social, emotional, or behavioral awareness and skills (e.g., “mindfulness”, character education)
- Adopt frameworks where schools can select different components, strategies, activities, or actions to address their goals (e.g., Social Emotional Learning—SEL; Positive Behavioral Interventions Supports)



# Why These Approaches May Not Work

- ❑ Many programs focus on behavioral deficits and “awareness” level interventions rather than student skill competence and self-management skills.
- ❑ Many packaged programs approaches do not have the necessary scientific, psychological foundations, and the methods have not been validated through rigorous independent analysis.
- ❑ These programs “allow” schools or districts to self-select those approaches that they want or think will address their needs.
- ❑ Lack of buy-in with poor communication by administration and/or staff
- ❑ Poor training and understanding around tiers of implementation

# Essential Science of Positive Behavior Systems



# Essential Science of PBSS

The primary goals of PBSS and classroom management are to:

- Teach
- Prompt
- Reinforce students' social, emotional, and behavioral self-management

There is a demonstrated scientific psychological foundation of what works that must be applied to any program and/or framework.

# Practices, NOT Programs.

*THIS SCIENCE TRANSCENDS “PACKAGED PROGRAMS”*

- + Cultural Competence
- + Character Education
- + Poverty Awareness
- + Social-Emotional Learning
- + Trauma Sensitivity
- + Mindfulness
- + Restorative Justice
- + Reductions in Disproportionality
- + Teasing and Bullying Programs



# Essential Science of Positive Behavior Systems

## 1. Relationships and Positive School Climate

Positive School Climate



## THE 13 DIMENSIONS OF SCHOOL CLIMATE MEASURED BY THE CSCI

DIMENSIONS	MAJOR INDICATORS
<b>Safety</b>	
<b>1 Rules and Norms</b>	Clearly communicated rules about physical violence, clearly communicated rules about verbal abuse, harassment, and teasing, clear and consistent norms and enforcement for adult intervention.
<b>2 Physical Security</b>	Students and adults feel safe from physical harm in the school.
<b>3 Social-Emotional Security</b>	Students feel safe from verbal abuse, teasing, and exclusion.
<b>Teaching and Learning</b>	
<b>4 Support for Learning</b>	Use of supportive teaching practices, such as: encouragement and constructive feedback, varied opportunities to demonstrate knowledge and skills, support for risk-taking and independent thinking, atmosphere conducive to dialogue and questioning, academic challenge, and individual attention.
<b>5 Social and Civic Learning</b>	Support for the development of social and civic knowledge, skills, and dispositions including: effective listening, conflict resolution, self-reflection, emotional regulation, empathy, personal responsibility, and ethical decision making.
<b>Interpersonal Relationships</b>	
<b>6 Respect for Diversity</b>	Mutual respect for individual differences (e.g. gender, race, culture, etc.) at all levels of the school—student-student, adult-student, adult-adult and overall norms for tolerance.
<b>7 Social Support—Adults</b>	Pattern of supportive and caring adult relationships for students, including high expectations for students' success, willingness to listen to students and to get to know them as individuals, and a personal concern for students' problems.
<b>8 Social Support—Students</b>	Pattern of supportive peer relationships for students, including friendships for socializing, for problems, for academic help, and for new students.
<b>Institutional Environment</b>	
<b>9 School Connectedness-Engagement</b>	Positive identification with the school; norms for broad participation in school life for students, staff, and families.
<b>10 Physical Surroundings</b>	Cleanliness, order, appeal of facilities; adequate resources and materials.
<b>Social Media</b>	
<b>11 Social Media</b>	Students feel safe from physical harm, verbal abuse/teasing, gossip, and exclusion when online or on electronic devices (ie: Facebook, Twitter, other social media platforms, by an email, text messaging, posting photo/video, etc.).
<b>Staff Only</b>	
<b>12 Leadership</b>	Administration creates and communicates a clear vision and is accessible and supportive of school staff development.
<b>13 Professional Relationships</b>	Positive attitudes and relationships among school staff that support effectively working and learning together.
schoolclimate.org   The 13 Dimensions of School Climate Measured	



# Establish, Build, and Maintain Positive Staff, Peer and Student Interactions



Staff to Staff



Staff to Students



Students to Students



Staff to Students & Parents



The background of the slide features a dark blue overlay on a photograph of two young men. They are both smiling and looking down at a book or document they are holding together. The man on the left is wearing a light-colored shirt, and the man on the right is wearing a dark shirt. The overall tone is educational and positive.

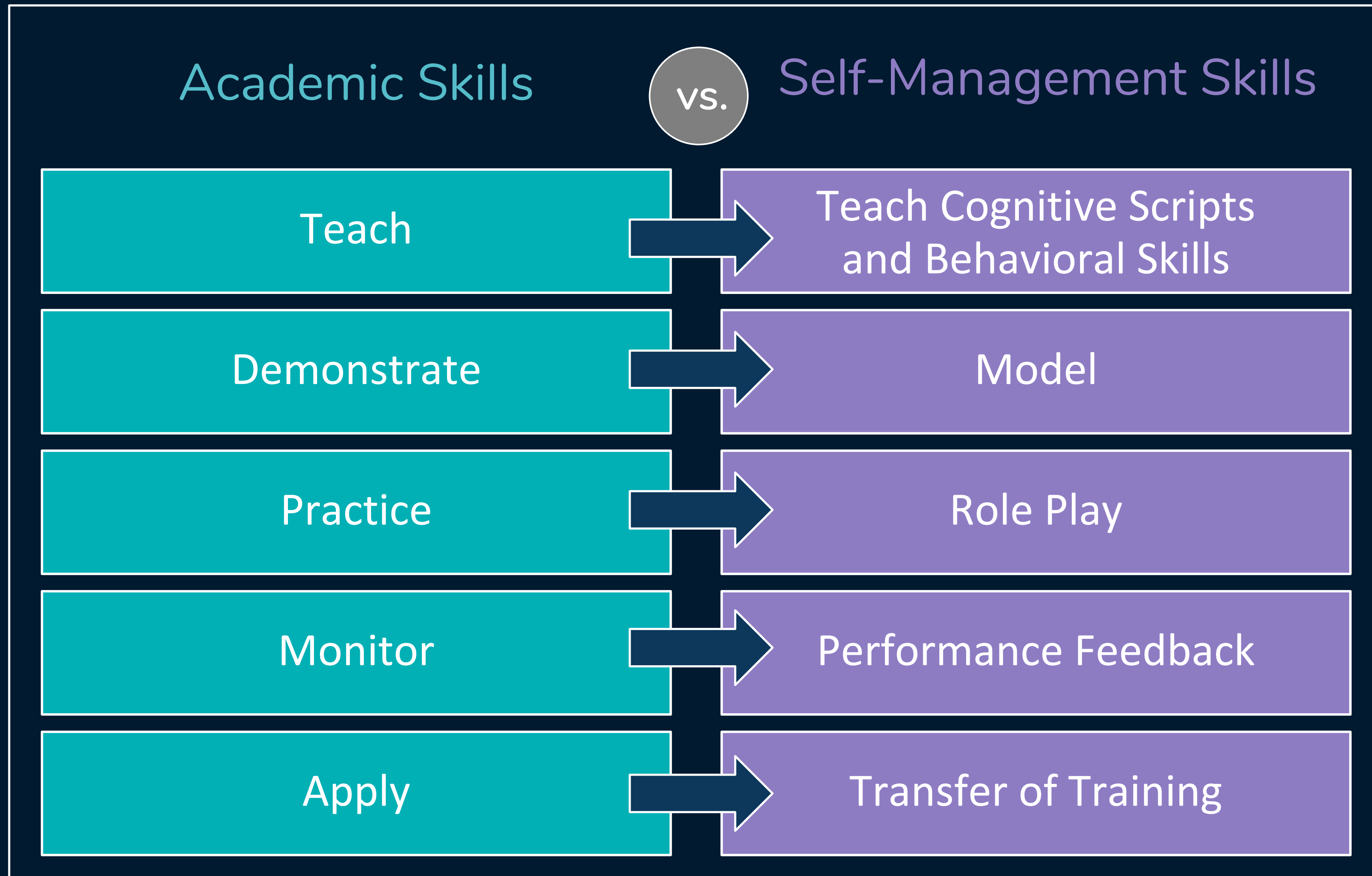
## 2. Behavioral Expectations and Skill Instruction

and Skill Instruction

2. Behavioral expectations



**Students with Skill Deficits:**  
*The Science of Teaching Social, Emotional and Behavioral Skills*



(Knoff, H. 2018)

The background of the slide features a photograph of two young men sitting at a desk. They are both smiling and looking down at a book or document on the desk. The image is dimmed and has a dark blue overlay. A white rectangular box is positioned in the upper right quadrant of the slide, containing the text '3. Consistency'.

### 3. Consistency

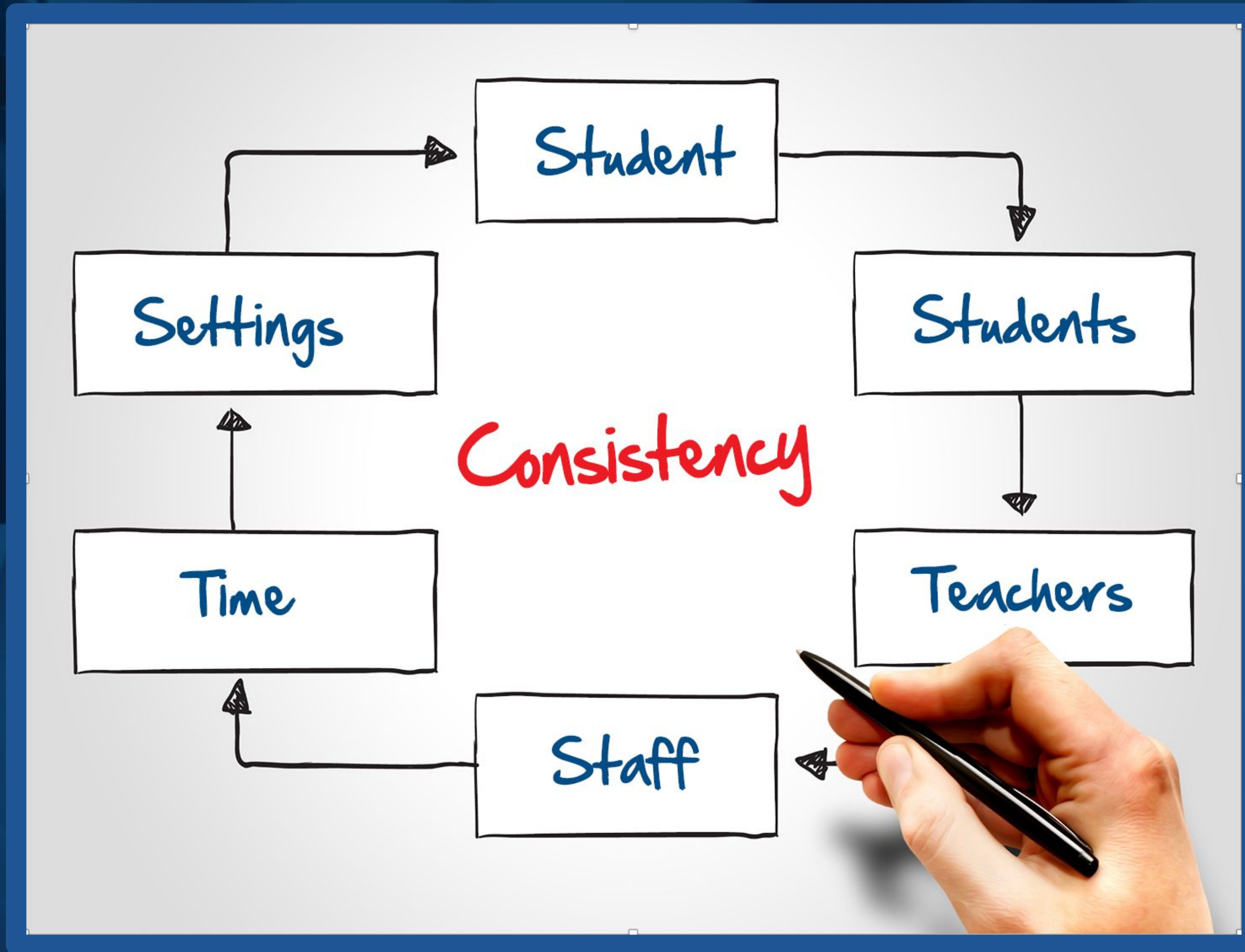
3. Consistency





Inconsistency undercuts accountability and increases or strengthens students' inappropriate behavior









## 4. Motivation and Accountability

The background of the slide features a dark blue overlay on a photograph of two young men. They are both smiling and looking down at a book or document they are holding together. The man on the left is wearing a light-colored shirt, and the man on the right is wearing a dark shirt. The overall tone is positive and educational.

## 5. Special Situations - Setting and Student

Setting and Student  
of special situations -



## CLASSROOMS



## COMMON AREAS







Teasing, taunting, bullying and harassment are recurring in a more dynamic way and usually occur in common areas of the school. Train kids to avoid and respond.



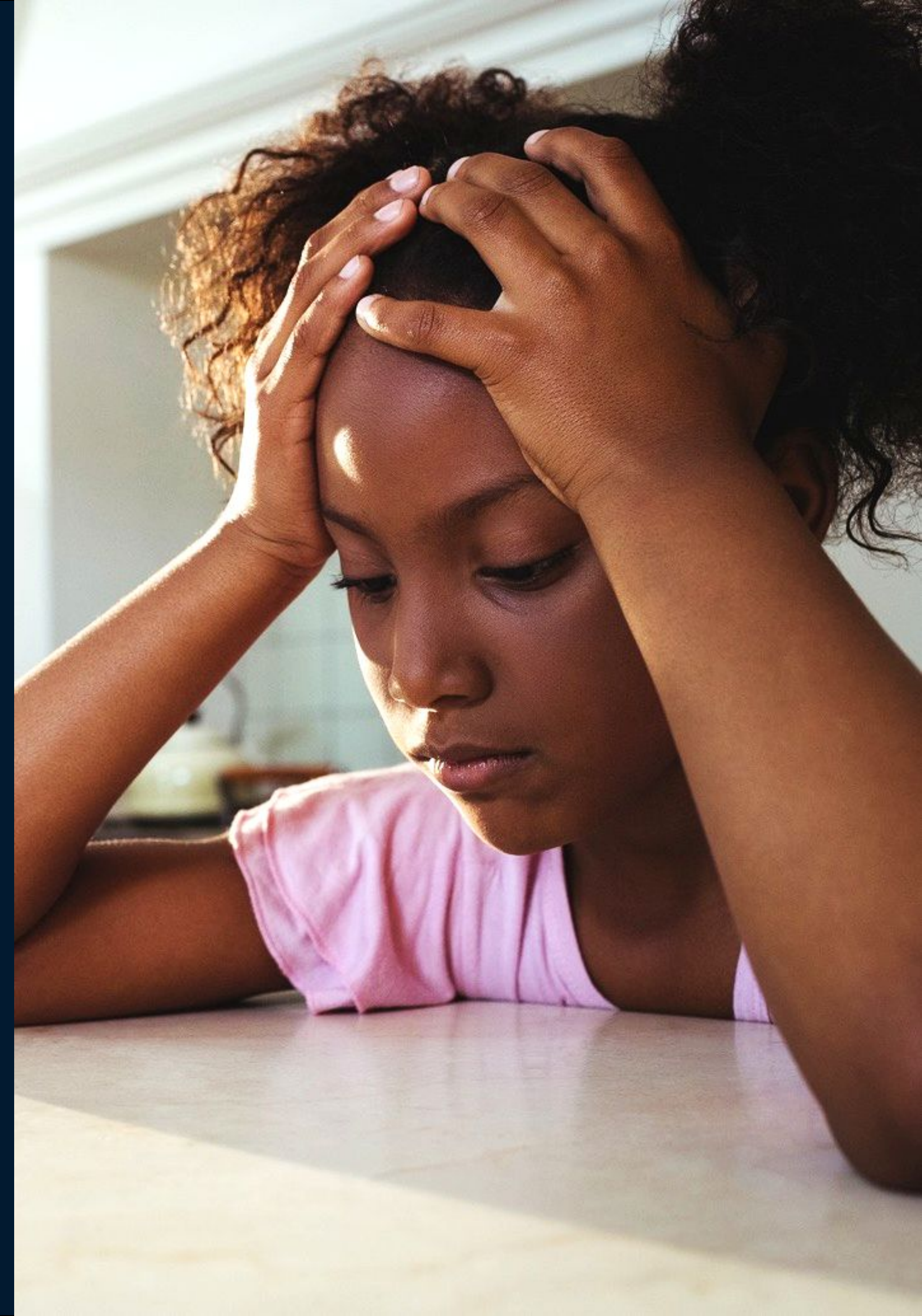
# The Third Special Situation

Mental health issues

Disabilities

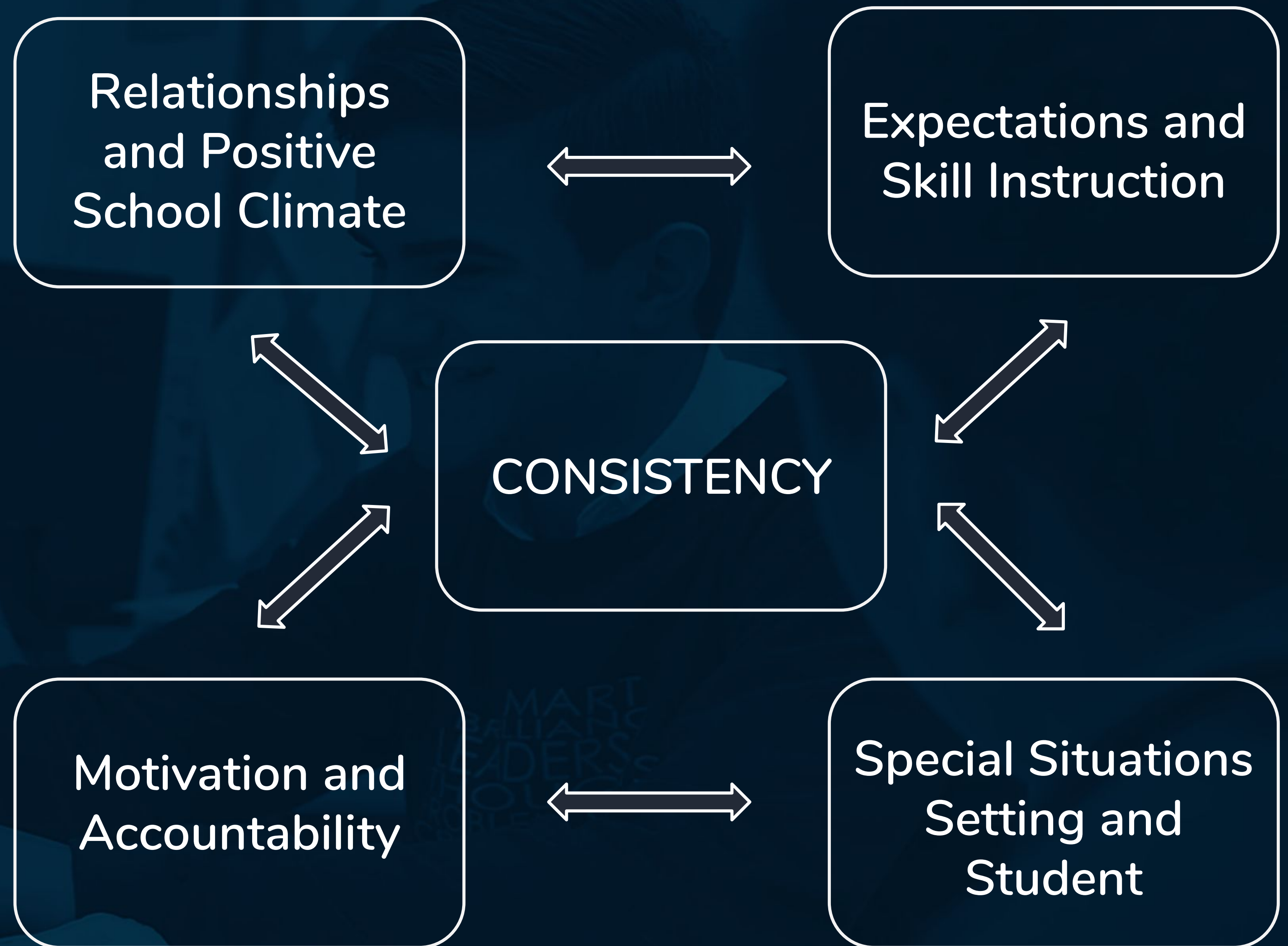
Significant trauma

Dysfunctional homes



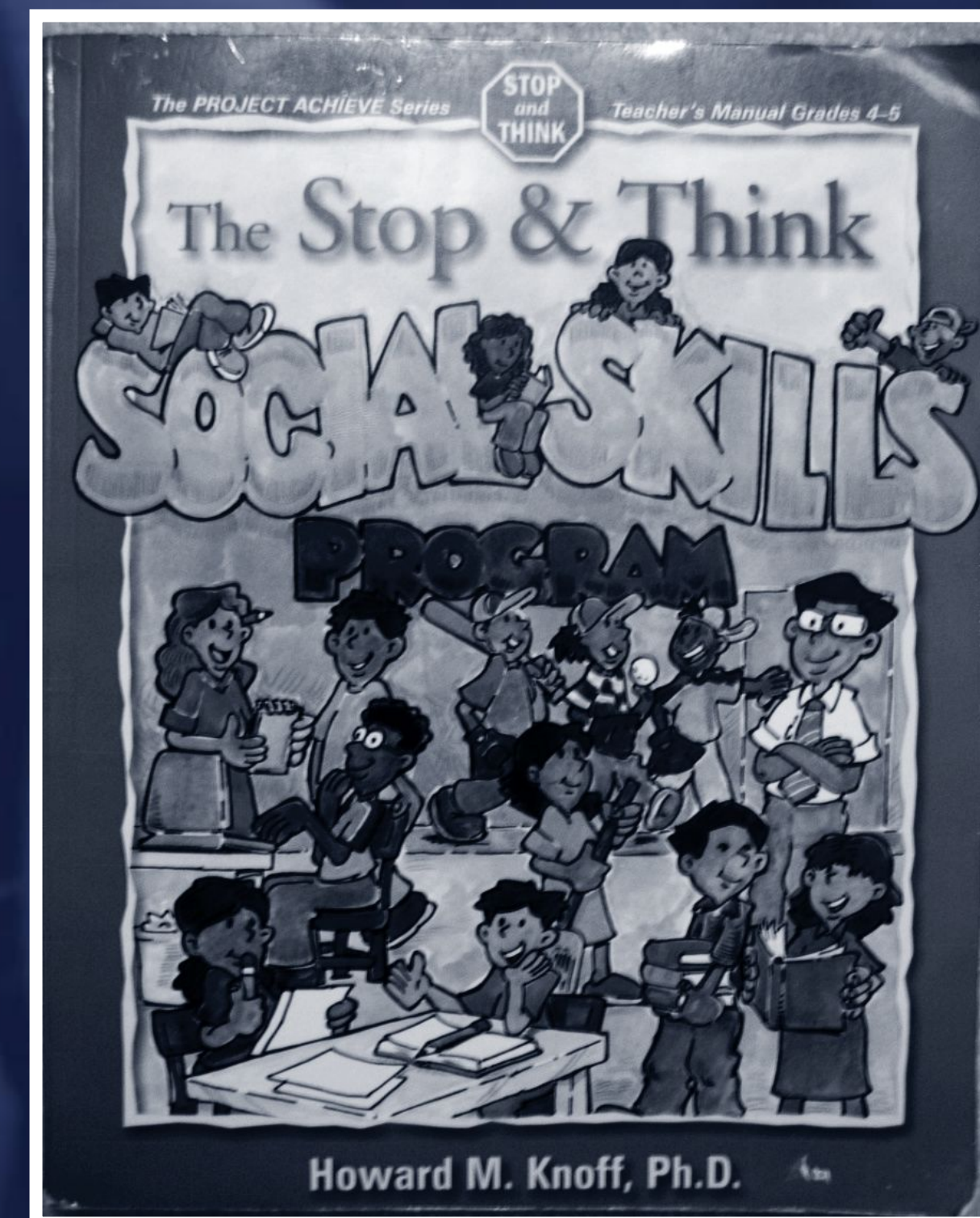


# The Five Scientific Components





# Project ACHIEVE – Dr. Howie Knoff



NATIONAL REGISTRY OF EVIDENCE-BASED PROGRAMS & PRACTICES FOR OVER  
A DECADE; IMPLEMENTED IN SCHOOLS NATIONWIDE FOR OVER 30 YEARS



# Practical Applications Through Technology Support



# Demonstration

*Hero is an example of a digital tool that can be used to support your school and district efforts. It helps improve climate & culture by allowing your staff to consistently implement and maintain your systematic practices with efficiency and equity.*

## Example School in Video:

- Has a dedicated team, that meets frequently
- Has a PBSS action plan
  - They weave SEL & Restorative Practices into their framework
- Set clear, S-W expectations (students, staff and families)  
They pass out and display posters of these two guides:
  - **“PRIDE Code of Conduct”**  
(prosocial behavior expectation matrix for all school settings)
  - **“Conflict & Behavior Handbook”**  
(guide that details the expected corrective responses for unwanted behaviors, based on their level of intensity)



You can also visit us [here](#)  
for additional information

Thank you for  
attending!



## Questions?

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