
Interventions and Supports in a Personalized Learning Environment

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Interventions Must Align to Your School Philosophy

Healthy Schools develop the whole child and are based on support and development, not punishment and compliance.

All human beings learn at different rates and in different ways.

Children must feel safe in order to learn

THE MYTH

Zero tolerance policies and punitive consequences will promote a safe and supportive school

The Vicious Cycle of Punishment

- ❖ Zero Tolerance punishments disconnect the most vulnerable students from the school community
- ❖ Students fall further behind academically
- ❖ Disconnection and academic struggle promotes increased misbehavior
- ❖ More punishment follows escalated misbehavior, which further increases disconnection and academic failure
- ❖ Students who are continually punished do not ask for help because they do not believe they are valued enough to be listened to

Social and Emotional Supports

- ❖ Social Work Intern from SCSU
- ❖ Trauma specialists from Post Traumatic Stress Center
- ❖ ALIVE Humanities Course*
- ❖ SSST weekly case management
- ❖ Teach the teachers*
- ❖ Alternative discipline practices

Academic Supports

- ❖ Strong advisor program that includes Student Success Plans, Academic Advisory and Student Led Conferences
- ❖ Learning Lab
- ❖ After school tutorial every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday
- ❖ Algebra Intervention
- ❖ Allow for unlimited test retakes and project resubmissions
- ❖ Student Led Conferences mid-marking period

Positive Impact of Eliminating Disciplinary and Academic Punishments

- ❖ MBA found that removing academic and behavioral punishments increased student engagement and accountability, as well as academic performance. These practices decreased suspensions and course failure rates and increased graduation rates.
- ❖ Destigmatizes mental health academic supports services
- ❖ Promotes a growth mindset
- ❖ Decreases student transiency

Interest Group Discussion

- ❖ Academic Supports
- ❖ Social and Emotional Support
- ❖ Culturally Safe and Respectful Schools

Questions

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Advisory Manual and Resources can be
found at

metropolitanbusinessacademy.org

Professional Development

- ❖ What White Children Need to Know About Race, by Ali Michael and Eleanor Bartoli, Summer 2014 NAIS
- ❖ Using a text protocol, teachers will examine their own racial identity development and how it might impact their communication and decisions in the classroom.

Professional Development

- ❖ Dr. Pedro Noguera on Reframing the “Color of Discipline” on vimeo
- ❖ Discussion questions
- ❖ 1. For what sorts of behaviors are students in your school punished? Does discipline in your school often take the form of humiliation or exclusion, as Noguera suggests?
- ❖ 2. What sorts of alternative disciplinary strategies have you seen reconnect students to the benefits of schools?
- ❖ 3. Think of a student you often discipline, or see disciplined. How might you and other educators at your school reconnect that student to the learning environment?