North Carolina Department of Public Instruction

PARTNERSHIPS FOR SUCCESSFUL STUDENT BEHAVIOR

On-Line Professional Development Modules

Modules: Understanding Student Behavior in the Classroom
Understanding Young Student Behavior in the Classroom

These professional development modules were developed by a team of multi-agency individuals in collaboration with the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction and an on-line module developer provided to us from Race to the Top and the Division of Educator Effectiveness. These modules serve as a tool to assist teachers to develop an enhanced awareness of behavioral health issues in the classroom and extend that knowledge to foster long-term connectivity and academic achievement for all students, decrease the dropout rates, and ultimately, increase North Carolina’s graduation rates. The module development teams consistently demonstrated a strong commitment to provide teachers and school staff with the best possible information, strategies and resources available.

Our primary goal for the professional development modules are for our preschool through grade 12 students to achieve improved academic performance and enhanced social/emotional development through teacher awareness of and ability for successfully addressing behavioral health issues in the classroom, and by fostering communication between the school, student, family, and helpful resources as needed.

Modules Objectives:

• Teachers use techniques and resources to better understand student behavior, deal constructively with classroom situations and create a nurturing, engaging environment that ultimately supports students through graduation.
• Teachers identify existing student support services that facilitate positive behavioral interventions and promote meaningful relationships between the students, school staff and families.
• Teachers use communication skills as tools for respect and understanding among students and across student groups.
• Teachers access important behavioral health information and resources and share those as appropriate with students and families.
INTRODUCTION

When young children enter either preschool or kindergarten for the first time, they enter the school and classroom with strengths and maybe some weaknesses that result from a multitude of biological, culture, economic, environmental, social and perhaps, early childhood trauma. When a behavioral health issue is demonstrated by a student in the classroom, the teacher provides the first intervention. Young students are vulnerable, often need assistance to adjust to new surroundings and people, and due to the added stress of school can display negative behaviors. Teachers and school personnel have a unique opportunity to utilize these classroom moments to understand the behavior, create and maintain a healthy emotional climate for all students, and provide the intervention that will facilitate all students learning capabilities.

As reported by Wagner (2005), forty-four percent of our dropouts are due to behavioral health or mental health issues. Understanding behavior health in the classroom is paramount to the early successes of all students. All scientific evidence - similar to physical health issues - validate that the earlier an intervention, the better the long-term success rate for that student. It is imperative that teachers and school personnel are equipped to understand and manage the behavioral health issues of students and have knowledge of adequate professional and community resources, including the school counselor, school nurse, school psychologists, school resource officer and school social worker and other community resources. Both of the modules have a large section of professional and community resources for the teacher.

Teachers and school personnel are not asked to become clinicians for their students but rather, to develop an awareness of behavioral health issues that occur in their classrooms and to have tools and resources to help them deal with these issues. They are not being asked to make a behavioral or mental health diagnoses, but to develop an enhanced understanding and knowledge of the behaviors of their students and successful intervention techniques.

The educational community is strengthened by collaborating and consulting with each other and learning when to ask for help. Only by bringing an awareness and strategies to the entire community will the safety and success of our students be achieved.

Understanding Student Behavior in the Classroom

Understanding Young Student Behavior in the Classroom
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Access the Modules (No cost to school system or user)

- Log into [https://center.ncsu.edu/nc/](https://center.ncsu.edu/nc/)
  Create an account
  Authenticate your account

- Log into [https://center.ncsu.edu/nc/](https://center.ncsu.edu/nc/)

- In Course Search box type: **Understanding Student Behavior** and click Search.
  - Understanding Young Student Behavior in the Classroom (PreK-5th Grade)
  - Understanding Student Behavior in the Classroom (6th – 12th Grade)

- Click on module title to be automatically enrolled

Contact Information

**Presenters**

Christina K. Minard, MS  
Mental Health and Allied Health Consultant  
NC Department of Public Instruction  
Chris.Minard@dpi.nc.gov  
919-807-3858

Karen Everett, Senior Officer  
Raleigh Police Department  
Detective Division  
Youth & Family Services  
Karen.Everett@RaleighNC.gov

**Contributors**

Dr. Lynne Johnson, Ph.D.  
Director for Educator Effectiveness  
NC Department of Public Instruction

DeLea Payne, Ed.S.  
Educational Consultant: Special Projects  
Educator Effectiveness  
NC Department of Public Instruction

Kathy Boyd  
Senior Staff Attorney  
NC School Boards Association

**URL listed during presentation:**

**North Carolina School Violence Prevention Act**  

**North Carolina School Bullying Penalty**  
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