

Be the Arrow
Positive Behavior Interventions and Support
By Stephanie Heuer
College and Career Counselor

There is no magic wand single-handedly that works to remove the barriers to learning that occur when behaviors are disrupting the learning community. The climate of each learning community is different; therefore, a “one size fits all” approach is less effective than interventions based on the needs of each school. Currently as a counselor at a high school in California, I see and respond daily to the struggles and challenges of our young students attending public school. The implementation of interventions can yield positive results in the area of violent conflict and bullying behaviors (be it, cyber bullying or anonymous harassment). At our school, we have defined proactive strategies for defining, teaching, and supporting student behaviors to create a positive school environment that recognizes the value of each student’s worth and dignity. Dignified environments are essential for learning and embracing the diversity of our student body, we have seen an increase in collective growth, and a decrease in violent conflict (such as fights, cyber bullying and suspensions due to student negative interactions).

At our high school, we have adopted PBIS, *Positive Behavior Interventions and Support*, which is a proactive approach to establishing the behavioral support and social culture needed for all students in our school to achieve social, emotional and academic success. The attention is focused on creating and sustaining primary (school-wide), secondary (classroom), and tertiary (individual) systems of support that improve lifestyle results (personal, health, social, family, work, recreation) for all students by making targeted misbehavior less effective, efficient, and relevant, and desired behavior more functional.