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Strategies for Responding to Inappropriate Student Behavior

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At times we focus so much on how to respond to inappropriate student behavior that we forget that it is more important to focus on **preventing** inappropriate behavior.

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Ask yourself: "How can this strategy work for the students I teach?"

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Strategies for Responding to Inappropriate Student Behavior

There are two types of inappropriate students behavior:

- Consequential Behavior
- Inconsequential Behavior



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What is Inconsequential Behavior?

- Behavior that is annoying
- Isn't damaging to the learning environment
- Roughly 94% of inappropriate behavior is inconsequential

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How do we respond to inconsequential behavior?

Ignore it



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“Great teachers have an incredible ability to ignore. This doesn’t mean they are oblivious – great teachers are aware of almost everything that happens in their classrooms. Nor does it mean that they have vast reserves of patience (although that helps). Rather, it reflects their mastery of the situations that arise daily in the life of schools. They know how easily one or two students can disrupt the flow of learning, but they also know when to go with the flow, when to take a stand, and how to quell minor disturbances without further distracting others.”

- DR. TODD WHITAKER
WHAT GREAT TEACHERS DO DIFFERENTLY



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What is Consequential Behavior?

- Behavior that is damaging to the learning environment
- When students persist in being disruptive
- When students are physically or verbally abusive to one another



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How do we respond to consequential behavior?

Non-coercively



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What is Coercion?

- Attempts to achieve compliance through force or threats
- Compels students out of fear of what will happen to them if they do not comply



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Problems with Coercion

- Coercion creates the image of compliance
- Coercion does nothing to address the problem
 - It makes students want to escape and avoid the coercer
 - Destroys self-confidence
 - Destroys safe learning environment
 - Makes students want to counter-coerce (get revenge)



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Why Do Teachers Use Coercion?

- Coercive methods may have been used in the schools they attended while growing up
- Teachers think coercion works
- Teachers don't know a better way

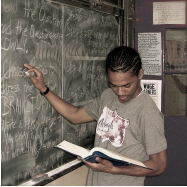


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Strategies for Responding to Inappropriate Student Behavior

Non-Coercive Methods for Responding to Inappropriate Student Behavior


- Praise appropriate behavior
- Ask students to restate the expectation
- Use proximity
- Reevaluate the situation
- Acknowledge and restate



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Parable of the Dwight Schrute Bobblehead




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Strategies for Responding to Inappropriate Student Behavior

Stop and Redirect Behavior

1. Say something positive
2. Briefly describe the problem behavior
3. Describe the desired alternative behavior
4. Give a reason why the new behavior is more desirable
5. Check for clarity
6. Provide positive feedback



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Reinforce Consequences

- Maintain the permanent teacher's consequences for inappropriate behavior
 - Set all consequences (positive and negative as early in the day or class period as possible)
- When possible, consequences should be a natural outcome of inappropriate behavior
- Be careful that consequences don't provide undue attention to misbehaving student (This can quickly become a coercive method)

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Reinforce Consequences

- What is a negative consequence to one student might not be negative to another
- Consequences should be administered quickly and quietly without getting emotionally involved
- Don't punish the whole class for the misdeeds of one or two students
- All consequences should be reasonable, appropriate, and in accordance with district/school policies

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Thank you for attending!

Questions, please address them to:
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