What is Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS)?

- PBIS is a research-based, school-wide systems approach to improve school climate and create safer and more effective schools.
- PBIS IS a process. PBIS IS NOT a program or a curriculum.
- The process focuses on improving a school’s ability to teach expectations and support positive behavior for all students.
- PBIS provides systems for schools to design, implement, and evaluate effective school-wide, classroom, non-classroom, and student-specific discipline plans.
- PBIS is a team-based process for data review, data-based problem solving and intervention, ongoing planning, and monitoring of interventions.
- PBIS implementation includes school-wide procedures and processes intended for: ALL students, ALL staff and in ALL settings. This includes individual classrooms and teachers AND non-classroom settings and related staff.
- Steps involved in setting up school-wide PBIS after initial training:
  - Identify school team to guide and direct the process. This team should be made up of an administrator, grade level representatives, student services staff, non-classroom staff and parents.
  - Establish 3-5 positively stated school-wide behavioral expectations.
  - Establish a way to collect office referral and other data on a regular basis to evaluate the effectiveness of school-wide PBIS efforts.

- The graphic below defines the three-tiered prevention/intervention model that is integral to PBIS.
What is PBIS Maryland?

- *PBIS Maryland* consists of three partners: The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE), Sheppard Pratt Health System, and The Johns Hopkins University Center for the Prevention of Youth Violence.
- 594 schools in 24 of Maryland’s local school systems have been trained in school-wide PBIS since 1999; 494 of those schools are actively implementing universal strategies with fidelity to the model.
- Maryland uses a coaching model for PBIS and has trained a total of 283 coaches since 1999. Behavior Support Coaches are school psychologists, social workers, counselors, administrators, behavior specialists, resource teachers or other identified employees of local school systems who provide additional support to the PBIS Leadership Teams in the schools to which they are assigned. The Behavior Support Coaches are critical to the high quality implementation of PBIS and dissemination of evidence-based practices across trained schools.
- *PBIS Maryland* has created and implemented 12-month calendar of training events that ensure access to training for new PBIS schools and provide ongoing training and technical assistance to implementing schools.
  - **Annual Summer Institutes for New Teams:** During 2007, PBIS Maryland trained 1,200 team members from 123 elementary and secondary school, new PBIS teams, and 100 new PBIS Behavior Support Coaches. During 2008, PBIS Maryland has resources to train 80 new PBIS school teams.
  - **Annual Administrator Forum:** This has traditionally been a full-day event for administrators and potential team members from schools interested in attending the upcoming Summer Institutes for New Teams. In 2008, the State Superintendent of Schools invited potential new schools as well as state and local leadership from other agencies, initiatives and universities.
  - **Annual Summer Institutes for Returning Teams:** During 2007, five regional events were planned and supported by PBIS Maryland and local school systems. There were a total of 1,800 attendees. In 2008, events will continue to be locally planned and a higher percentage of training costs will be the responsibility of the local school systems.
  - **Recognition Program and Celebrations:** During 2007, 187 schools received recognition for implementing school-wide PBIS.
  - **Behavior Support Coaches Technical Assistance Training Events**
  - **Special Technical Assistance Training Events for High Schools, Special Schools, and Alternative Schools**
  - Data collection systems for monitoring implementation fidelity and participation in PBIS initiative.
  - **PBISMaryland.org:** PBIS Maryland created and supports a very popular web-site which has received over 3 million hits since January 2006.

For more information go to: [www.pbismaryland.org](http://www.pbismaryland.org) or [www.pbis.org](http://www.pbis.org).