

Anne Arundel County Hosts Annual PBIS Regional Meeting

AACPS hosted their annual PBIS Meeting on January 7, 2009. Each year Anne Arundel County Public Schools holds a meeting for their PBIS teams during the school to focus on one of the components of PBIS implementation. This year, the topic was Tier 2, Check-in/Check-out (CICO), featuring Susan Barrett, the Maryland State PBIS Coordinator. Susan presented information about the process, as well as introduced the new SWIS CICO technology. Further training is scheduled later in the month for interested teams. In addition to Susan's presentation, four school teams shared highlights from their schools: The CICO model at Tyler Heights; Increasing Staff buy-in at North County High School; Ideas in Action at Meade High School; and Increasing Responses for Non-responders-MacArthur Middle.

Tyler Heights, a Title 1 elementary school, was represented by three team members: their school psychologists, school counselor and behavior specialist, all who shared their behavioral tracking forms and their point cards. Students may trade in points for non-tangible or tangible incentives, but many save them up for the big incentive: a lunch at one of the fast food restaurants. This was a great school example featuring many of the critical features that Susan had emphasized in her presentation.

Meade High, beginning with their Kick Off Week, has seen a 16% drop in referrals for the entire school during the first quarter as they instituted more ideas to: increase staff buy-in; to increase school pride; to increase PBIS visibility; with the goal of improved student behaviors. The team shared that they have seen a 16% decrease in overall referrals, a 4% decrease in 9th grade failures; and a 2 % decrease in academic ineligibility. One of the Big Events attributed to these successes was *Meade Idol*, a student talent show. Entrance into the event was based on positive student behaviors and attendance.

MacArthur's team reported that they are in our 6th year of implementation of PBIS. 4 team members, as well as the team leader have been active on our team for all 6 years. Their Eagle Code and Eagle Tickets have been institutionalized. Many of our school-wide events, including the holiday gift shop, game day, auction, and carnival, have been institutionalized, as well. Their efforts have resulted in a 37% reduction in office referrals for the 2008-2009 school year! The team noted that there are many things different after implementing PBIS over the several years, including development of a Red and Yellow Zone (Tier 2 and 3) continuum of interventions. They have instituted an effective RST and Orange Team (Behavior Support Team) meetings on a weekly basis, an Advisory Program, and a Uniform Policy management where violations of the policy are managed only in the Advisory period. Furthermore, they note that staff who buy into PBIS build positive relationships with students AND work collaboratively together. Some of the tier 2 and 3 interventions include: Check and Connect; Mentoring; Counseling through Guidance – check in / check out as needed; Daily Behavior Tracking – point sheet; Daily Behavior Tracking – email; FBA / BIP Process; Counseling Groups – guidance, school psychologist, social worker;

DMR; MSAP; Support from outside partners – Villa Maria / Walter Reed counseling services, referrals to YES program; Academic Interventions – 504, sped, Algebraic Thinking, after school math intervention program, after school tutoring through First to College, Reading interventions (CR, spell read, SOAR), AVID, specialized advisory groups.

North County High School has been asked to present to school systems across the state and region because of the powerful presentations by their Assistant Principal, Adam Sheinhorn, and team leader, math teacher, Jamie Fowler, but largely because of dramatic change in climate and outcomes the school has witnessed since implementing PBIS. They are in their 5th year and highlighted their theme: ***Teamwork Makes the Dream Work***. Their school has an active Business Advisory to support PBIS, their creativity with incentives as well as their increased tea participation, has contributed to their positive changes, especially regarding consistency with school-wide and classroom management.

All teams were given the tiered template presented at the state coaches meeting so that they may begin to develop a resource map for their initiatives at each tier, as well as to assess the outcomes for these initiatives.