

AACPS held its annual Fall Regional PBIS Meeting on October 24, 2007 at the Anne Arundel Community College, Arnold Campus. Two sessions were offered in the morning and afternoon. Each of our 64 PBIS Schools was scheduled by their clusters, of which AACPS has six.

Each year AACPS offers these meetings in the Fall and Spring, usually following a theme that emerges from the aggregated data on discipline. Previous topics have included multi-cultural competence, classroom management, and data analysis. This year, the focus for Fall is on motivating students with behavioral challenges. Each session was divided into three parts. The first part reviewed updates from the MSDE State Leadership Team around changes to data collection and the use of the Implementation Phases Inventory Form (IPI). A review was provided to teams of the reasons for, effectiveness of and how to use incentives and rewards. The information distributed to the teams was from a workshop that Rob Horner gave at the Facilitator's Conference in Chicago, October 11 and 12, 2007. A list of positive organizational features critical to making the organization successful was provided based on a study done of the most successful Fortune 500 Companies. Attendees were asked to draw comparisons with how their classrooms and schools.

Thanks to Jerry Bloom, who aggregated the AACPS office referral data generated from SWIS into the "Triangle", we were able to review how each school level fared with respect to the green, yellow and red zone. AACPS is happy to announce that elementary, middle and high schools implementing PBIS either approached or exceeded the 80% level of students in schools with 0-1 referral, the 10-15% level with 2-5 referrals and the 1-5% expected level with 6 or more referrals.

The second portion of the meeting was devoted to guest speaker, Shemille Brown, a social worker from the Children's Guild, who provided an interactive workshop on motivating students with challenging behaviors. She reframed descriptions of students with difficult behaviors into a positive, hope, and strength based management approach. She drew connections between neuro-chemical and brain organization to behaviors.

Finally, three AACPS schools presented their PBIS implementation: North County High School, Meade Middle, and Rolling Knolls Elementary. All three schools are in at least their fourth year of implementation and provided a detailed description of how they use data; provide the continuum of incentives to students and staff, creative fund-raising opportunities and excellent outcomes with school wide behaviors.

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