

Seymour Middle School 2015-2018 Safe School Climate Plan

Bernadette Hamad, Principal (Safe School Climate Specialist)

The Safe School Climate Committee is made up of the PBIS, Positive Behavior Interventions and Support, Team and includes: the principal, assistant principal, psychologist, guidance counselor, classroom teacher representatives, school secretary, and a parent representative. The School Climate Committee meets monthly to consider school-wide efforts to promote, enhance, and sustain a positive climate.

The administration annually addresses parents and all staff members at the beginning of each school year to review policies related to safe school climate, and periodically reviews climate expectations. The school's focus is that intentionally mean behavior is unacceptable. Parents are surveyed biennially regarding school climate.

A school climate goal is included in the Seymour Middle School Improvement Plan. The PBIS/School Climate Committee and the School-Based Data Team analyze the progress towards the goal and keep the staff and students informed of the successes and challenges at monthly faculty meetings and displays in the school.

Seymour Middle School continues to implement Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports program. Team and school rules/expectations are closely aligned to this proactive philosophy. The PBIS rules/expectations can be found in each classroom throughout the building, and in the student handbook located on the Seymour Middle School district website. The expectations are reviewed in class and then at home with parents. The Seymour Middle School Student Handbook is distributed electronically to every student at the beginning of each school year. Students are instructed to read the handbook, especially the code of conduct section and sign that they have received the publication, and then return the acknowledgement page to the school. Included in these policies, but not limited to, is the Bullying Prevention and Intervention Policy #5131.911.

The school counselors (through Developmental Guidance classes), the health curriculum, and outside sources review important issues related to school climate. These issues include cyber-bullying, healthy relationships, harassment, and drug use.

During the Administrative Guidance assemblies rules and expectations are reviewed and explained to students through a PowerPoint presentation and discussion. This presentation can be found on the school website.

In order to ensure safety, teachers monitor the unstructured times in the hallways and locker areas between classes and at arrival and dismissal time. Lunch monitors supervise the cafeteria during the lunch waves.

All students will receive Tier I PBIS interventions using a continuum of procedures encouraging expected behavior and discouraging rule violations. As patterns of inappropriate behaviors are noticed, students may be recommended for more intensive or targeted Tier II and Tier III interventions. Should Tier I Intervention not be successful the student will be referred to the PBIS team which will develop an individual student plan using Tier II and Tier III intervention if necessary. Conferencing and communication with home is helpful as well as periodic check-ins with the students and teachers.

Tier II PBIS Interventions include: check in – check out, rule review and practice, Social Skills Group, behavioral contracts, home-school interventions, Time out in a “buddy” classroom. Tier III PBIS Interventions include: Functional Behavioral Assessment (FBA), Behavioral Intervention Plans (BIP), wrap-around services, individualized academic instruction, and individualized behavioral instructions. These layers of intervention are designed to foster and support a positive, proactive school climate.