



Policy Statement

The Association for Positive Behavior Support (APBS) is an international organization dedicated to the advancement of positive behavior support. The multidisciplinary association is made up of professionals, family members, teachers, consumers, researchers, university professors, and administrators who are committed to the application of Positive Behavior Supports (PBS) within systems, such as schools and agencies, and at the individual level for people with complex support needs involving behavioral challenges. The mission is to affect behavior change and improvement of quality of life for all individuals within their schools, families and communities.

The Association focuses on prevention and reduction of problem behaviors from low-level disruption and noncompliance to destructive behaviors such as aggression and self-injury. Concurrently, our focus is to ensure the development of productive behaviors that support accomplishment of life goals such as social relationships, employment, academic achievement, functional life-skills, self-determination, health, and safety. We believe that through the competent and skilled use of PBS, and focusing on strategies that are humane, constructive, and educationally oriented, all individuals, including those with complex behavioral challenges, can make meaningful progress toward these goals.

Both system-wide and individualized interventions used in PBS are empirically documented and can be used by a range of support providers. These interventions have proven to be effective for preventing problem behaviors from developing as well as meeting the needs of individuals with the most complex and challenging behaviors. It is the goal of PBS to further the capacity and skills of school personnel, service providers, and families so that they can deliver behavior supports that are not only effective, but that contribute to an improved quality of life.

If positive behavior support practices and systems are made more readily available, the result will not simply be a reduction in problem behaviors, but improved social climates within schools and communities. This will allow all individuals, including those with complex needs and disabilities, to successfully achieve their life goals in the job and community of his or her choice, and surrounded by desired family and friends. When individuals experience complex behavior challenges, we believe the challenges should and can be resolved with a natural community and a team of knowing and caring providers. If current strategies appear ineffective, rather than resorting to more intrusive and aversive strategies, we seek enhanced collaborations and expertise, all in the effort to design the most effective positive behavior supports while maintaining dignity and the desired lifestyle.

Respectfully,

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