

Positive School Climate

Seminole County Public Schools are committed to raising student achievement. A feeling of security and connectedness in school are essential elements to a student's academic success. Bullying, fighting and harassment undermine the mission of schools. Research clearly shows that students will commit fewer violent acts when they feel supported, respected and liked. Students' needs include structure, safety and strong relationships. Seminole County Public Schools strive to ensuring that students feel that they are liked, respected and safe in school.

Positive School Climate & The Base for Student Achievement

Before students can improve test scores, there must be a positive school climate. Learning should not be interrupted by disruptive behaviors. Students should be able to focus on learning, while teachers can concentrate on teaching. This focus will allow parents to feel that their children can achieve academic success in a positive environment.

How Can Schools Promote Positive School Climate?

- Have students who feel connected with friends, staff and school
- Develop a sense of community within the school
- Respect and show care for students
- Celebrate student success
- Teach keys to nonviolence/conflict management skills
- Build empathy in students
- Reinforce and model valuing diversity
- Involve media to promote student success
- Facilitate positive attitudes between staff and students
- Promote respect for all staff and students
- Keep parent informed and involved with school activities and their student's progress
- Maintain effective classroom management
- Involve students in promotion of school climate efforts
- Set clear rules and consequences with consistent enforcement
- Teach Character Education
- Create a school-wide violence prevention program for all students
- Identify students experiencing troubles and create a plan for proactive interventions
- Target individualized interventions for students with severe behavior problems
- Teach anger management skills
- Facilitate peer mediation
- Reach kids before gangs do

- Use gang strike forces to intervene with gang-related students
- At-risk and severe behavior problem students interact with caring adults (mentor)
- Promote well-attended after-school program
- Align with local businesses for mentors and job-related activities
- Stop bullying
- Ensure students are engaged in school work that is challenging and engaging
- Provide adult supervision in the hallways
- Combat truancy
- Create school pride
- Form a buddy system for students who are left out of peer groups

(Adapted with permission from St. Paul Public Schools, Minneapolis, Minnesota)