

Behavior Planning Basics

Definitions, Rationale, Important Facts

I. Definitions and Important Facts:

MTSS/Tier 2-3 Team, also known as SAP Team: (Henceforth called the MTSS T2-3 Team)

A multi-disciplinary team, led by the school counselor, that uses data to identify the students not responding to Tier 1 interventions, recommends interventions or strategies to address their needs and monitors progress. This team will provide input into whether a student needs a Tier 2 or Tier 3 behavior plan and can also give input on interventions identified within the plans.

Important Fact:

Multi disciplinary teams ensure the fidelity of planning, implementation and progress monitoring. SAP is also mandated by PA Act 211.

Behavior: *Observable action* a person takes in response to an external or internal event.

Important Facts:

- All behaviors serve a purpose or function to get a need met.
- All individuals communicate something through their behavior during every moment, in every day, even if they are not aware of it.
- The reason they sometimes use challenging behaviors is because it works. Behaviors continue because they are reinforced.

Behavior Planning: A collaborative problem-solving process to:

- Create a road map of *strategies that adults implement* to prevent undesired behavior and reinforce desired behavior by teaching how to get the same need met using an appropriate behavior
- Establish reasonable goals with target dates
- Monitor progress toward those goals to determine need for different strategies or a more intensive level of intervention

Behavior Plan: The document that describes the goals, strategies, student responses and progress and the plan for next steps.

Tier 2 Behavior Plan: Teacher led plans that are created at the recommendation of the MTSS Tier 2-3 Team when a student is not appropriately responding to Tier 1 positive behavior supports implemented with fidelity.

Tier 3 Behavior Plan: Counselor led plans that are created at the recommendation of the MTSS Tier 2-3 Team when the student:

- is not responding to Tier 2 positive behavior supports implemented with fidelity
- is in crisis or at risk and needs emergency or higher level of behavioral health care
- needs a SAP referral or referral to a behavioral health provider

Intervention Provider: The term used for the person who is responsible for developing and inputting behavior plans in SIS. This is the teacher in Tier 2 and the counselor in Tier 3

Case Manager: The term used for the person who oversees the behavior plans to ensure fidelity of development, implementation and progress monitoring. The case manager can see and edit the student's behavior plan. This is the counselor in Tier 2 for supporting the teacher in developing interventions and progress monitoring tools. The counselor is also the case manager in Tier 3, in addition to being the Tier 3 Intervention Provider.

Important Fact:

Counselors are their own Case Managers as they are the highest experts in the school on Tier 3 behavior planning. Support for the counselor at this level will be provided by the Office of Prevention and Intervention.

II. Rationale and Benefits:

Why do we need to develop and implement behavior plans?

- Behaviors often get in the way of learning
- Behavior planning is an evidence-based method to improve student behaviors
- Behavior planning helps adults identify barriers to learning and implement strategies to remove those barriers.
- With a behavior plan, adults know how to teach and reinforce positive behaviors.

Benefits:

- Behavior planning is a collaborative process that involves the family and student and other adults that interact with the student.
- Everyone has input and buy in around the who, what, where, when and how of the behavior's root cause and how to minimize its impact.
- Behavior plans documents what to do so that all adults interacting with the child understand how to approach the student to minimize undesired behavior.
- It documents progress so we can see what, if anything needs to change.