



GOOSE CREEK

CONSOLIDATED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Mental Health America Awards GCCISD \$40,000 for Behavior Program

Mental Health America of Greater Houston recently awarded \$40,000 to Goose Creek CISD to cover training for 150 staff members to help further implementation of Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS).

Goose Creek CISD began the program, which is called Positive Behavior and Academic Support (PBAS) on the campuses, three years ago with De Zavala Elementary, Lamar Elementary, Travis Elementary, and Horace Mann Junior School. Other schools were added the next year. All of the District's schools were included for the 2013-2014 school year.

In August, Region IV Education Service Center trained teams of at least five faculty members from every campus, and these faculty members were responsible for the training at their schools.

Dr. Patty Bing, director of student services, met with MHA representatives, who noted that they had specific funds for Baytown that had not been used.

"We looked at the results of a study on what was needed for children in the school system to help with behavior and attendance," said Dr. Bing. "The research indicated that positive behavior intervention support is helpful in improving these areas."

According to Dr. Bing, when children are corrected for their behavior, a replacement behavior must be provided to give them the skills that they lack.

"The ultimate goal is to prepare students to be successful for the world of work; we have to imprint them with the appropriate social skills," said Dr. Bing.

De Zavala Elementary School faculty and staff members set expectations for students for all of the different areas of the school, including the cafeteria, gym, hallways, and classrooms, three years ago when they were part of the pilot program.

They have consistently reinforced behavior based on the acronym SWIM, which stands for Self-Control, Winning Attitude, Inspire Others and Model Respect.



Dr. Patty Bing, director of student services for Goose Creek CISD, and District principals analyze data from their schools showing the results of using Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports. As a result of Mental Health America of Greater Houston awarding the District \$40,000, the Positive Behavior and Academic Support program, as it is called on the campuses, has expanded to all Goose Creek CISD schools. Pictured are (front, l to r) Rachelle Ysquierdo, principal at De Zavala Elementary; Dr. Bing; Becky Robins, principal at San Jacinto Elementary; (back, l to r) Karen Thomas, principal at Travis Elementary; Matt Warford, principal at Harlem Elementary, and Dr. Ron Wyatt, principal at Alamo Elementary.

Students earn check marks for positive behavior, which are tracked on a chart in their classrooms.

"One of the positive outcomes of earning a set number of check marks is to be able to participate in a SWIM Party, which might include watching a movie or playing games outside and eating snow cones, at the end of each six weeks," said Betty Baca, assistant principal. "Students who do not earn enough check marks to attend the activity participate in SWIM Lessons, reviewing the expectations to see why they weren't able to attend, so that they can attend the next time."

School teams continue to meet monthly to discuss feedback and discipline data. Additional training for faculties during campus staff development days will help ensure the success of the program.

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