

CONNECTIONS DAY SCHOOL

BEHAVIORAL INTERVENTION SERVICES (BIS)

PROGRAM INFORMATION

The specialists within the Behavioral Intervention Services (BIS) office at Connections Day School provide a safe and supportive setting for any student who is struggling to manage their thoughts, feelings, impulses and/or behavior within the classroom, P.E. class, group therapy, etc.. The BIS staff provide a service much like therapy, and this service is utilized when other supportive interventions within the program have not been effective and/or a student's behavior has become unsafe or disruptive to the learning environment of the school.

Many CDS students struggle to ask for support appropriately, and therefore, their negative thoughts and feelings (anger, sadness, frustration, confusion, embarrassment, fear, etc.) are often expressed behaviorally. These unhealthy or inadequate methods of managing negative thoughts, feelings and impulses frequently become patterned behaviors. Therefore, new, healthy coping, problem-solving and self-soothing skills must be learned and utilized. Informed by the real-world life skills of the Circle of Courage and the Social Skills Steps, the BIS staff collaborate closely with the therapeutic and teaching staff to support all students in this learning process, so that they can develop positive, effective ways of managing the various challenges in their lives.

Although, there are consequences attached with any referral to the BIS office, the process is not intended to be punitive. Instead, it is an opportunity for students to explore the impulses and behaviors that are preventing them from appropriately engaging in their current school activity. It is also an opportunity for students to learn in-the-moment strategies to help regulate their behavior, and get them back to their regularly scheduled school day, as soon as possible. BIS staff assist students both in identifying the underlying reason(s) for their negative impulses and behavior, and in developing the skills needed to prevent the same poor choices in the future.

BIS Staff Responsibilities

- Providing education for all school Staff Members regarding a school wide, behavioral management system which focuses on prevention of problematic behaviors and early interventions, in order to maintain a positive, peaceful, safe learning environment.
- Ensuring building-wide compliance with the school rules, boundaries and expectations; correct utilization of the CDS Point Sheet; and accurate interpretation and representation of the Circle of Courage and Social Skills Steps.
- Working with students who are referred to the Behavioral Intervention Services (BIS) Office in a supportive and encouraging manner, and always with the intention of assisting each student to re-enter their regularly scheduled academic & therapeutic programming as quickly as possible.

- Coordinating follow-up communications (processing) with the referring staff member and ensuring parent notifications are made, when appropriate.
- Providing professional support and consultation for all staff members regarding issues of school climate and behavior management.
- Maintaining a collaborative environment, with the guidance and support of the administrative team, to focus on the most successful ways serve our students and support our staff.
- Entering and reviewing all behavioral intervention information into the school's data base for teachers, therapists and administrators to review.
- Presenting at Parents' Group events to educate CDS Parents/Guardians on behavioral interventions, behavior contracts, and maintaining a structured, nurturing environment in the home.