

***Standard 7(d) Implements professional development plan to improve practices.***

For this criterion I chose my professional growth plan for this academic year of teaching. I chose to focus on creating a more positive and safe classroom environment by promoting respect between teacher and student and between classmates. My professional development plan lays out several specific ways for me to track and chart my progress in this area. First, I am to keep a parent-contact log of all interactions with parents. The idea is to create more interactions with home supporting students academically and less supporting students behaviorally. Second, I am to give a quarterly classroom climate survey. The goal with this is to see a positive shift in my student's perception of my classroom climate. I want my students to feel safer, more respected, and find my class more fun than my first year of teaching. The last strategy I selected to improve my classroom climate was to faithfully implement our school's commitment to Positive Behavior and Instruction Supports within my classroom.

So far, I have far more academic support calls home to parents than behavior calls. This is mainly because of the new PBIS discipline flow chart I follow in my classroom. This gives me a systematized way to determine when I call home, instead of whenever I am having a problem. I believe the sparing use of the phone call for behavior concerns keeps it a potent, not an overused tool in my behavior support toolkit. Also, I administered the classroom climate assessment three times during my first year of teaching. So far this year, I have administered it twice. When I compare how my class was rated at the end of the first year with how my students rated my class half way through this year, there is a noticeable positive shift in all of their ratings. However, I want to withhold judgment until I have a chance to look at the end of the year surveys from my second academic year. Otherwise, I am comparing apples to oranges. Lastly, implementing PBIS in my classroom has been a large help in shifting the climate of respect in my classroom in a positive direction. My students now have a clearly outlined set of behavioral expectations, these expectations have been discussed, modeled, and rewarded.