PBIS Indiana develops and establishes a statewide network of culturally responsive schoolwide positive behavior interventions and supports (PBIS) sites and increases educators’ knowledge and understanding of how PBIS impacts student achievement, family engagement, dropout rate, and least restrictive environment placements.

PBIS is an approach to understanding why behavior occurs—that is, the behavior’s function. When applied at a school-wide level, the approach is often referred to as SWPBS and includes a continuum of supports and interventions, ranging from universal (for all) to specialized group (for some) to individualized (for few).

SWPBS is not a program, curriculum or practice. Rather it is a decision-making framework to guide selection, integration, and use of evidence-based practices to increase academic performance, decrease problem behavior, and establish positive school cultures. SWPBS relies on accurate and reliable data to understand behavioral patterns occurring, for instance, in a classroom, a hallway, or even throughout a building.

Rather than focusing on the student as the problem, SWPBS looks at expected behavior and supports the development of multi-component plans to change behavior. This intense focus on expected behavior is achieved by clarifying, teaching and acknowledging expected behavior, preventing problem behavior by changing contributing contexts, and responding to problem behavior more effectively. To ensure that PBIS equally benefits all groups of students, the approach also supports culturally-responsive PBIS (CR-PBIS), a framework for integrating issues of race, ethnicity, and culture into SWPBS implementation.