



February 3, 2012

To Whom It May Concern:

The Region 17 Education Service Center is pleased to work with the Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities (TCDD) on our Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports (PBIS) Projects. TCDD's effort on these projects is a strong example of the important work of DD Councils in Texas and throughout the country in encouraging the support and inclusion of people with developmental disabilities.

PBIS is a systematic approach to changing behavior; strategies are developed that manage student conduct across school settings. PBIS is a decision making framework that guides selection, integration, and implementation of the best evidence-based practices for improving important academic and behavior outcomes for all students.

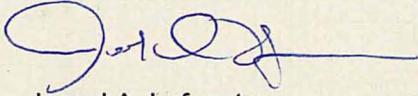
We have two PBIS Projects that are supported by TCDD:

- In nearly 4 years, the **PBIS Disproportionate Impact Project** has provided training to more than 6,000 school personnel, agency staff members, community members and parents. Training includes support for the implementation of PBIS strategies that specifically aim to reduce the number of disciplinary referrals (such as suspension and expulsion) of children with disabilities by race and ethnicity; establish procedures to monitor at-risk students to prevent escalating disciplinary action and support their success in school; and increase skills in the area of cultural competency.
 - The Project has provided training for 9 independent school districts involving 16 campuses and four Charter Schools.
 - Sample data shows that the Project helped decrease the number of disciplinary referrals by 29 percent after only two years of PBIS strategy implementation in a Lubbock-area high school.
- The **PBIS Pre-Kindergarten Project** provides training to help improve behavior intervention skills and knowledge of staff in settings that serve children with disabilities ages 2 to 5 years. The Project aims to reduce the number of students expelled from childhood settings.
 - The Project has provided training and resources to more than 200 schools, agencies, campuses, child development centers and other organizations.
 - Fifteen sites have received mentoring and individualized training to more specifically meet their needs.
 - Project data assessing the social-emotional levels of children in participating sites shows:
 - 66% reduction in self-control concerns (self-control is the ability to experience feelings and appropriately express them).
 - 100% reduction in initiative concerns (initiative is the ability to use independent thought and action to get needs met).
 - 45% reduction in behavioral concerns.

As our Projects continue, we look forward to training more educators, child care providers and others on how to implement strategies that help support and fully include people with disabilities in their communities.

I am happy to provide additional information on our Positive Behavior and Intervention Supports Projects if desired. In the meantime, please know what a critical difference TCDD is making in the lives of people with developmental disabilities in Texas.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jerard A. Lafuente", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jerard A. Lafuente
Project Director
PBIS Disproportionate Impact Project

Laura B. Skeen
Project Director
PBIS Pre-Kindergarten Project