

Institute for Understanding Behavior

a progressive and preventative
approach for New York City
educators

The Institute for Understanding Behavior

- A joint initiative created by the United Federation of Teachers with the NYC Department of Education.
- Help schools ensure that every child develops the social, emotional, and academic skills they need to succeed in school and in life.
- Strengthen school communities, improve academic outcomes by teaching staff members to understand and anticipate behavior issues before they escalate.

Professional Development

- Cornell University Therapeutic Crisis Intervention curriculum
 - Training for all staff (administrators, teachers, paraprofessionals, school-aides, cafeteria workers, etc.)

Discovery and goal setting

- Needs assessment planning
- School-based staff are identified to create a Behavior Leadership Team and are trained in TCIS.
- Ongoing school level data collection and analysis

On-site Support

- Behavior Specialists guide school leadership teams
 - utilize school wide data to identify struggling students and develop a plan with the classroom teacher to provide support.
- Behavior specialist begins regular on-site school support after a critical mass of school staff complete TCIS training.
- The team will also use data to develop positive school wide support systems.

On-site Support

- Development of partnerships with community-based organizations.
- Monthly practicum workshops
- Training for school based staff to provide workshops for parents in behavior management strategies.

Ongoing Support

- Sustainability after 3 years of full IUB support.
- Continued training for new staff
- Continued guidance by your behavior specialist.

Expected Outcomes

- Reduction of suspension rates
- Lower occurrence of level 1 and 2 incidents (preventing levels 3, 4, 5)
- Evidence of positive school culture
- Improved attendance rates
- Increased academic achievement

Expected Outcomes

- Enhanced social/emotional competence in staff and students
- Lower incidence of staff turnover
- Decreased incidents of staff injury and violence
- Positive change in Quality Review, Progress Report and Learning Environment scores
- Self-sustaining practices
 - Effective Behavior Leadership Team
 - Use of data to support students and school community
 - School wide positive behavior supports