

Improving School Climate & Discipline Conference

*Sponsored by The Louisiana Department of Education and
The Louisiana State Personnel Development Grant
in conjunction with LSU Shreveport and Caddo Parish Schools*

January 26 & 27, 2017
7:30 am - 4:00 pm
Louisiana State University Shreveport
University Center

January 26, 2017

7:30 – 8:00 a.m. Registration/Check-in

8:00 – 8:15 a.m. Introduction

Janice Zube, LDOE – Healthy Communities Section
Dr. Summer Stewart-Whitmore, Louisiana State Personnel Development Grant

8:15 – 11:15 a.m. “Legal Considerations for Students with Disabilities in the Disciplinary Process”
Mark C. Weber, J.D.

Keynote: This session will discuss legal considerations in applying behavior standards and school rules to students who have disabilities. The session will focus on requirements of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act (Section 54), and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The new Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) will also be discussed. Topics will include behavior support services, suspensions and other disciplinary removals, notice and hearing rights, manifestation determinations, interim alternative educational settings, rights of children not yet determined to be students with disabilities, weapons and drug and alcohol issues, seclusion and restraint, and police intervention. For each topic, the plan is to cover the legal basics and then address recent developments from the courts and the United States Department of Education.

11:15 – 12:30 p.m. Lunch and Learn: Diving Deeper into Keynote Issues

Barzanna White, Ph.D.; Janice Zube, and Summer Stewart-Whitmore, Ph.D.

Dr. White, Ms. Zube, and Dr. Stewart-Whitmore will cover and discuss pertinent questions that were addressed in the earlier session. This “Lunch and Learn” activity will take place during lunch which will allow participants to dive deeper into critical topics. Then regional participants will break into small groups to create plans to implement strategies at their school sites.

12:30 – 3:30 p.m. “Legal Considerations for Students with Disabilities in the Disciplinary Process (continued)”

Mark C. Weber, J.D.

This session will pick up where the previous session on students with disabilities in the disciplinary process left off. The plan is to take up sample scenarios and solicit concerns from the conference participants, to try to work through some of the legal issues that are presented by everyday problems in the schools. The objective will be to stimulate practical thinking about ways of handling behavior challenges that accomplish educational goals while minimizing the risk of legal liability.

“Pull Up or Push Out: Alternatives to Suspension or Expulsion”

Jean Hollenshead, Ph.D.

This 3-hour session will address strategies and interventions available to school personnel, mental health providers, and families in the management of behavioral problems that may place a child at risk for getting “pushed out” of the educational system. Data trends regarding disproportionality, as well as the “school-to-prison” pipeline, will be included. The session will emphasize the importance of a collaborative team approach to providing a growth-oriented “pull up” environment that includes the child, school personnel, mental health professionals, and families.

“Family Involvement for Student Achievement”

Elizabeth Guice, Ph.D.

In this workshop, Dr. Guice will discuss the impact of the family system in helping children be academically and behaviorally successful in the school environment. Workshop participants will gain insight into the role of the family and will be given strategies to empower parents and encourage participation in their child’s education.

“Alternative Approaches to Suspension and Expulsion”

Rose Iovannone, Ph.D.

Although there is no evidence to support the use of zero tolerance procedures, such as out of school suspension (OSS) and expulsion, in response to problem behaviors, schools continue to use exclusionary procedures at high rates. Evidence does show that use of exclusionary strategies are associated with poor school climate, high probability of continued problem behaviors and increased dropout rate. Participants will review research findings related to exclusionary practices and will receive an overview of alternative strategies that have been effectively used by school districts. Systemic reform efforts such as the multi-tiered PBIS approach that includes universal, supplemental, and individual practices will be the primary focus. By the end of the session, participants will describe three alternate approaches and identify at least one approach that could be implemented in their setting.

“The Perfect Storm-Creating Winning Classroom Climates”

Darryl C. Charles

In this training session, participants will be provided with effective practices that will enhance the classroom environment. They will receive insight on the following

- ✓How to build effective relationships with students (engaged, and behavior challenged).
- ✓Understanding and effective communication techniques (time, tone, texture)
- ✓How to bridge the connection between the school, the home, and the community
- ✓How to design classroom climate that are goal and success driven.
- ✓How to turn “Student Contenders” into “Student Champions”

Engaged participants should leave motivated, valued, and prepared to make effective

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8:15 – 11:15 a.m. “The Power of a Teacher”
Larry Bell

Keynote: This dynamic, interactive session will provide participants with strategies that can dramatically improve student achievement. The strategies include vocabulary, reading and math comprehension as well as ways to engage students in their learning. This session offers practical strategies as well as inspiration and motivation.

11:15 – 12:00 p.m. Lunch and Learn: Diving Deeper into Keynote Issues
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12:00 – 2:30 p.m. “The Power of a Teacher (continued)”
Larry Bell

This session is a continuation of the Keynote. Larry will discuss topics in depth and have more time to answer specific concerns.

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PICK UP CEU’S