

# PBIS/MTSS for Behavior Success Story

## Hernando School District



Hernando School District includes 22 public K–12 schools, three charter schools, three center schools, and one e-school. All public K–12 schools implement Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS), a multi-tiered system of supports (MTSS) that ensures students receive the behavioral support needed for success. PBIS serves as a comprehensive framework that integrates initiatives aligned with state priorities, including Florida’s Resiliency resources for instruction, enhancing the district’s holistic student support. Guided by the 2023–28 Strategic Plan, the district prioritizes student success, talent management, safe and healthy learning environments, community connection, and fiscal transparency. PBIS is central to these priorities, fostering a culture where students thrive.

### Strategies for Success

Hernando School District is dedicated to student success. District Behavior Analysts and Specialists act as external coaches, each supporting 3 schools to strengthen teaming, implementation, and submission of PBIS data reports. In the 2023-24 school year, every elementary and middle school received an allocation for an MTSS coordinator, who partnered closely with PBIS coaches. These teams met monthly to analyze data, attend professional learning events, and develop plans for supporting students, bringing the academic and behavioral worlds together. This collaboration continued in 2024-25, with MTSS Coordinators regularly participating in PBIS coaches’ meetings to strengthen schoolwide systems and share successes.

### Outcomes

In the 2023-24 school year, 77% of Hernando schools reduced out-of-school suspensions, a key outcome tied to increased positive behavior supports. The district also updated its Student Code of Conduct through a collaborative process that included students, families, and community stakeholders. The new, 2024-25 Student Code of Conduct, provides expectations and procedures to promote a safe and supportive learning environment. The superintendent, Ray Pinder, said it best: the Student Code of Conduct provides “clear guidelines and expectations [that] play a vital role in promoting a positive school culture.” Schools are also integrating resiliency initiatives in the state and other selected behavioral resources within their PBIS framework to promote student outcomes. Eastside and Westside Elementary Schools revised their expectations with community input as part of the Family-School Partnership in PBIS, while Hernando and Central High Schools launched Freshman Success as a Tier 1 universal support for ninth graders.

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— Ray Pinder, Hernando School District Superintendent