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AUSD Launches District-wide Program of Positive Behavior Supports to Enhance Student Social, Emotional and Behavioral Well-being

The evidence-based program and practices are the foundation for academic and life success.

February 12, 2019, Alhambra, CA — In the 2017-18 school year, the Alhambra Unified School District began to develop a TK-12 Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS), to broaden the scope of current school-based prevention and intervention practices to address teacher and student needs. During the 2018-19 school year, Alhambra Unified School District began implementing district-wide Positive Behavior Supports (PBS), a component of MTSS.

The District elected to work with an outside consultant to assist and guide AUSD with this important work. The district researched various consultants and selected Dr. Clay Cook, Associate Professor of School Psychology at the University of Minnesota. Dr. Cook is the John and Nancy Peyton Faculty Fellow in Child and Adolescent Wellbeing and Associate Professor of School Psychology at the University of Minnesota. He has extensive research and practical experiences supporting schools to integrate evidence-based programs and practices to promote children's social, emotional, and behavioral wellbeing as the foundation for academic and life success.

On August 8, 2018, Dr. Cook began this work as a keynote speaker at the opening professional development day and has continued to work with site-based Dissemination and Implementation (D & I) Teams. This throughout-the-year training provides a forum for all campus teams to understand PBS and the knowledge, tools, and skills to facilitate informational gathering at each school site. Specifically, teams have taken a close look at the school climate and culture, identified Tier 1 interventions and strategies, and now begin the task of facilitating change at their site.

The implementation of PBS is a three-to-five year process and the District looks forward to working with schools as it moves to implement district-wide Positive Behavior Supports (PBS) on all campuses. Students benefit from the skills and insights of the training not only in their ability to learn more easily and effectively, they also learn collaboration, resilience, teamwork, focus and other skills needed for 21st century careers.

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Caption: Dr. Clay Cook teaching at a January 2019 AUSD Staff Professional Development Training on Positive Behavior Supports (PBS) to promote children's social, emotional, and behavioral well-being as the foundation for academic and life success. PHOTO CREDIT LIEZEL GUTIERREZ

