

## **Innovation Area**

# **Classroom Management**

**Ideas contributed by graduates of the  
Urban Teacher Corps  
through the  
Polk Bros. Foundation Innovation Network.**

***Challenge:***

Student self-discipline:  
students not choosing to exercise self control.

***Idea:***

Have students create and sign student contracts.

***Application:***

Create an individual student behavior contract for student, teacher and parent.

***How to connect teachers with this idea.***

Share with colleagues at an in service meeting. Set up grade-level or grade-cycle contracts.

***Challenge:***

Lack of respect among and between students and teachers.

***Idea:***

Teachers need to model appropriate and professional behavior.  
Teachers should tape themselves and then listen – ask colleagues for feedback.

***Application:***

First, let us recognize that it is a problem.

***How to connect teachers with this idea.***

Open discussion during in-services.  
Have teachers observe each other.

***Challenge:***

Getting students to take responsibility for their own behavior.

***Idea:***

Copy 100 “Good Tickets” and as students exhibit the desired behavior, randomly distribute the tickets.

***Application:***

At the end of the week, they “cash in” Good Tickets for educational materials – folders, pens, etc.

***How to connect teachers with this idea.***

Share the concept with co-workers at grade level, and eventually other grade levels can adapt the concept.

***Contributing Educator:***

Cynthia Wolski  
Hartigan Elementary

***Challenge:***

Keeping students on task.

***Idea:***

Assignments will be designed to be completed in one class session.

***Application:***

Brainstorm with colleagues.

Give assignments.

Instruct to complete the assignment by the end of the period.

***How to connect teachers with this idea.***

Demonstrate lesson plans that will cover the goals, while at the same time completing the assignment during the period.

***Contributing Educator:***

Tom Rees

Roberto Clemente Community Academy

***Challenge:***

How do we keep track of students behavior universally?

***Idea:***

Use index cards. Write students' names on them and divide the cards into six weeks. Students get a hole punch for each infraction.

***Application:***

Talk to fellow teachers and get your grade level involved in the process.

***How to connect teachers with this idea:***

Report at in-services and make graphs to show progress of students' behavior to fellow teachers.

***Contributing Educator:***

Amy Kauth  
Scammon Elementary

***Challenge:***

Keeping students interested and practicing self-control.

***Idea:***

Universal rules and consequences for common areas.

Goal setting for each student.

Demerit cards.

Cash in tickets for rewards.

***Application:***

Students chart their own progress each month in one behavior area.

***How to connect teachers with this idea:***

Share ideas with other teachers and meet monthly with at least one other educator regarding what works and what does not work.

***Contributing Educator:***

Christine Fedorenko

Roberto Clemente Community Academy

***Challenge:***

Defiant students who constantly challenge authority and school rules.

***Idea:***

Form a student discipline committee with an adult advisor.

***Application:***

Defiant students help form committee. They are responsible for reviewing mild-to-moderate student disputes and discipline problems and setting consequences.

***How to connect teachers with this idea:***

Identify 2-3 teachers to coordinate student discipline committee at the primary, intermediate, upper grade levels.

***Contributing Educator:***

Jennifer Redus  
Pablo Casals Elementary



***Challenge***

Getting children to pay attention while others are giving presentations or practicing skills and dialogue.

***Idea:***

Students evaluate each other with number grades and comments.  
Audience participation grades.

***Application:***

Develop a form for evaluating peers.  
The evaluation sheet is also worth a grade.

***How to connect teachers with this idea.***

Share the worksheet or evaluation process with other teachers who have tried it and enjoy using it.

***Contributing Educator:***

Ethelyn Wallace-Wess  
Kellman Elementary/Tilton Elementary

***Challenge:***

Projects are initiated, but follow-up or completion is lacking.

***Idea:***

Create timelines and set deadlines.  
Have guidelines for accountability.

***Application:***

Create and post schedules and agendas.  
Check on status periodically.  
Post progress status.

***How to connect teachers with this idea.***

Use this process to plan and report on school-wide initiatives as well as classroom projects.

***Contributing Educator:***

Cathy Bernier-Garzon  
Cesar Chavez Academy

***Challenge:***

Improve/develop social skills and feeling of the classroom environment.

***Idea:***

Weekly goal setting by means of advisory period.

***Application:***

Once a week classroom gets together, and each student defines a realistic and achievable goal for the week.

***How to connect teachers with this idea:***

This idea is now being implemented in our middle school. Share with teachers and multiply.