



ENGAGING IN RESEARCH TO PRACTICE

Washington Pyramid Model

The Pyramid Model¹ is a national innovation for an equitable multi-levelled system of support to enhance social and emotional competence in infants, toddlers, and young children.

Program-wide implementation of the Pyramid Model is often called [Early Childhood Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports](#) (PBIS).

Relationships are key change agents in early childhood. Pyramid Model Training focuses on practices that address relationships, environments, intentional teaching and individualized interventions. Program-wide implementation of the Pyramid Model is a relationship-based professional development framework that is child- and family-centered. Program-wide implementation intentionally addresses competency, leadership, and organization.

The Pyramid Model is an effective approach for addressing challenging behaviors that may lead to suspensions. When culturally responsive practices, which are naturally incorporated in the Pyramid Model, are highlighted during training and coaching and intentionally applied in classrooms, suspensions and racial disparities in discipline may be greatly reduced.²



"I have learned so much about de-escalating students using the Pyramid model Strategies. They have given me research-based tools that are effective with young children."

–WA Pyramid Model Program Coach

Key Outcomes of Program-wide Implementation of the Pyramid Model:

- Building program capacity to equitably meet the needs of ALL children and families.
- Reduction in the suspension and expulsion of young children.
- Promotion of family engagement.
- Integration of early childhood best practices with infant mental health consultation.
- Use of data-based decision-making and intervention monitoring.

To learn more about Washington Pyramid Model, visit our [program webpage](#).

¹ [National Center for Pyramid Model Innovations](#)

² [How to Reduce Suspensions](#)



2021 WASA/OSPI
Special Education
Conference

AUG-DEC | 8:30-11 AM

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A Conversation with Dr. Phil Strain: Why Should Districts Implement Pyramid Model?

Dr. Strain serves as a Co-Principal Investigator on three major federal initiatives to improve access to evidence-based practices in early childhood and early childhood special education: The Center on the Social and Emotional Foundations for Early Learning, The Technical Assistance Center on Social Emotional Interventions, and the Head Start Center on Mental Health Consultation. Dr. Strain directs the Positive Early Learning Experiences Center at the University of Colorado Denver.

Watch this [video excerpt](#) of a conversation with Dr. Strain on the impact and importance of Pyramid Model innovations for behavioral interventions, staff retention, and long-term outcomes for students with disabilities. The guided notes protocol below was developed to support your reflections on the video content.

Name(s): _____

Dr. Strain's Key Points on Pyramid Model	In which ways would these outcomes meet early childhood needs in your system?
1. Early behavioral support has a high return on investment.	
2. Pyramid Model allows for a continuity of services, PreK-12 and beyond.	
3. Research shows that Pyramid Model, implemented with fidelity, supports staff retention.	
4. Pyramid Model offers social validity data and has been replicated worldwide.	