

It's Not the Program

Why Schools Fail in Creating a Safe Learning Environment
and How to Create Success

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Circle of Courage © Trainer

Welcome

- Define “Program”
- Define “School Safety”
- What makes a school safe?
- Who participates in making a school safe?
- Why do schools fail to create safe environments?
- What is a philosophy of safety?
- What is restorative practice?

School Safety

- Physical Security
- Students engaged in learning
- Internal behavioral choices
- Rules are humane and reflect societal norms
- Students feel cared for
- Staff members are proactive
- Stakeholders are involved

(Duke 2002; Brendtro Brokenleg & Van Bockern 2002)

Environment of Safety

- Is any school completely safe?
- Who makes a school safe?
- Is there a curriculum you can buy to make your school safe?
- What do you mean? We use PBS.

Who promotes safety?



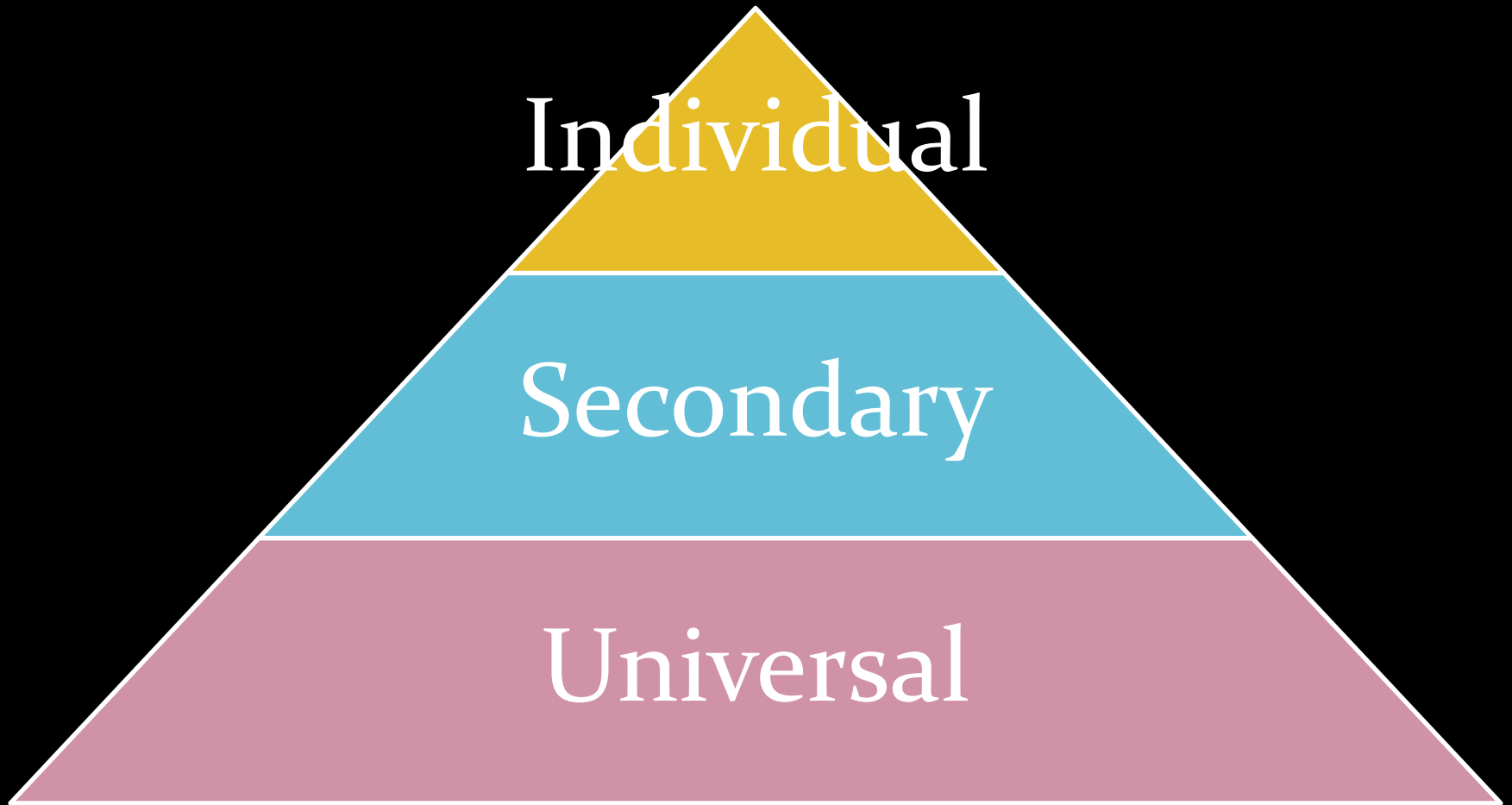
Interventions

- Character Education
- Token economy/point systems
- Separate conduct codes for every class
- Interventions that rely on artificial consequences
- Corporal punishment (yes it's still legal)
- Culture of domination
- Teacher centered instruction

The Problem

- “fragmentation and disunity among various positive development and problem prevention programs”
(Elias DeFini & Bergmann 2010 p. 30)
- Increase risk occurs because school staffs do not work as a collective team

PBS can work or not



What we want to see

Strong	To Authoritarian	With Authoritative
Controls	Nil Neglect	For Permissive
Weak	Support	
		Strong

International Institute for Restorative Practices (McCold & Wachtel 2003)

What matters

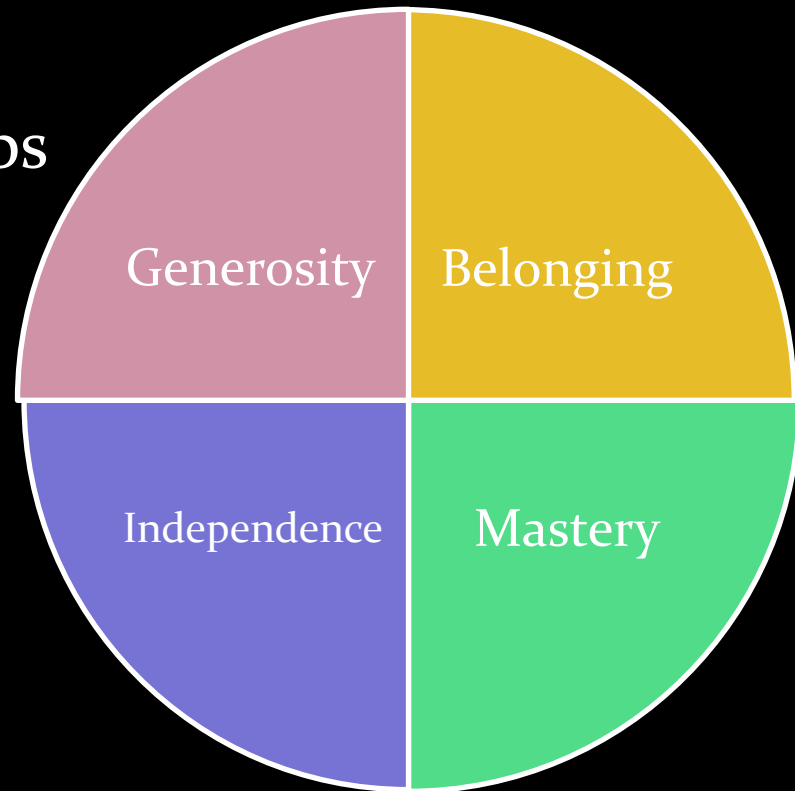
- Values are more important than consequences
- Norms are more important than rules
- Inner discipline is different from student compliance
- Positive relationships motivate students to achieve

Invitational Theory

- Respect
 - Optimism
 - Trust
 - Care
 - Intentionality
-
- “Invitational education is the process by which people are cordially summoned to realize their potential in all areas of worthwhile human endeavor.”
(Purkey & Novak 1996)

Reclaiming Culture

- Universal Values
- Develop Resiliency
- Focuses on Relationships
- Positive
- Protective



(Brendtro, Brokenleg &
Van Bockern 2002)

Assessment

- Does your school have a mission and purpose that promotes safety?
- Does your school have commitment from all staff to create a safe environment?
- Do the staff members agree on what safety is and what it looks like?
- Does the school have high expectations for student behavior and academic rigor?
- Do stakeholders support the school?
- Is there ongoing assessment of needs?

Safety looks like



Safe Schools

- It is about the people and what they do
- Culture /Environment
- Purchased programs are carefully chosen
- Assessment is ongoing

For follow-up

- Reclaiming Youth International www.reclaiming.com
- International Alliance for Invitational Education www.invitationaleducation.net
- University of Oregon Institute on Violence and Destructive Behavior www.pages.uoregon.edu/ivdb/
- Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports www.pbis.org
- Consortium on Chicago School Research www.ccsr.uchicago.edu
- International Institute for Restorative Practices www.iirp.edu
- UCLA Center for Mental Health in Schools www.shmp.psych.ucla.edu

Thank You

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References available

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