

BEHAVIORS THAT BLOCK SUCCESS: THE 4 D'S

There are four types of behavior that have a negative impact on the classroom environment. It's important to be able to recognize what each behavior type looks like, the motivations behind it so that we can act responsively, as opposed to simply reacting.



Disengaged

When behavior is

- withdrawn from the class
- focused internally
- easily distracted, slow to comply or reluctant to participate.
- not interfering with the class's ability to learn, but can lead other students to withdraw also.



Disruptive

When behavior is

- Distracted from the class
- focused internally, although acting outwardly
- disrupting the lesson through unsolicited noise or movement.
- exhibiting an unintentional lack of impulse control, or attention seeking behavior
- Impacting other students' ability to focus and learn.



Disrespectful

When behavior is

- In opposition to the class experience
- Focused outwardly
- Defensive or assertive when responding to the teacher or to other students.
- Responding to simple request with aggressiveness (Often a self-protective response to a separate incident).
- Interfering with other students' ability to learn.



Defiant

When behavior is

- Antagonistic towards the class experience
- Focused Outwardly
- Intentionally aggressive, responding with the intention of reducing the teacher's authority.
- Struggling for power in the classroom resulting from a previous and escalating incident and interfering with the teacher's ability to teach.



Interpreting Student Behavior

As teachers, we need as many tools as we can to interpret student behavior and respond appropriately. In order to interpret behavior, we must challenge ourselves to see beneath the surface and identify why the behavior is happening. When encountering inappropriate student behavior, our goal is to respectfully communicate the expectations, de-escalate the conflict, and maintain teacher authority.

	Student Behaviors	Possible Motivation	Teacher Responses
Disengaged	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drawing • Sleeping • Texting • Wandering • Doing Make Up • Zoning Out 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deflecting difficult class work • Disinterested in the material • Lack of sleep • Feeling ill, hungry • Feeling overwhelming peer pressure to fit in • Distracted 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ask questions to connect to student’s situation. • Identify how they might be feeling – redirect towards the work.
Disruptive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Talking loudly • Calling out answers or inappropriate questions • Throwing things • Singing, dancing, Walking around • Laughing loudly 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deflecting difficult class work • Disinterested in the material • Distracted • Feeling casual – class seems unimportant • Wanting attention from teacher or peers – feeling neglected. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ask a question about the situation • Identify the behavior as disruptive. • Remove the student from view of others to reduce contagious behaviors. • Validate and encourage positive improvements • Follow through with consequences





	Student Behaviors	Possible Motivation	Teacher Responses
Disrespectful	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cursing at someone• Hurtful language• Reacting aggressively• Name calling• Argumentative• Instigating conflict	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Deflecting difficult class work• Dealing with anger from a previous situation• Feels personally attacked• Overwhelming need for peer acceptance.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ask a question about the situation• Identify the behavior as disrespectful.• Follow through with consequences.• Disengage from arguments• Private conversations
Defiant	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Threatening behavior• Refuse compliance• Physically threatening• Verbally aggressive	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Deflecting difficult class work• Dealing with anger from a previous situation• Feels personally attacked• Overwhelming need for power• Unable to publicly back down	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Disengage from arguments• Private conversation• Ask a question about the situation• Call for support

