

Rule and Consequences

What does this SSW measure address?

The Rules and Consequences scale measures students' perceptions that teachers use positive disciplinary approaches in the classroom.

For use with:

Middle and High School Students

Positive Discipline

Research clearly indicates that student behavior and learning is better when rules about behavior are known, positive behavior is rewarded, and teachers know how to respond effectively to disruptive behavior.



Why is it important?

Disruptive behavior interferes with the engagement and learning of all students in a classroom. The best discipline practices pre-empt problem behaviors and include establishing clear guidelines for behavior and rewarding positive behavior. When behavior problems do occur, teacher responses are key to restoring a positive learning environment quickly and calmly. Positive discipline is associated with many other positive aspects of school climate and student-teacher relationships.

Scoring:

Scores on the five items are summed to create a total score on rules and consequences. Scores will range from 5 to 20, with higher scores meaning better behavior management. You can also look at low scores (1 or 2) on individual items to determine what specific areas could be targeted in efforts to improve classroom behavior management.

What do researchers say about the quality of the scale?

Researches report that the scale has good measurement qualities. It was tested with over 65,000 middle and high schools students of which 42% were White, 24% were African American, and 15% were Hispanic. The developers did test to determine the scale worked equivalently for middle and high school students.

Source: Waasdorp, T. E., Johnson, S. L., Shukla, K. D., & Bradshaw, C. P. (2020). Measuring School Climate: Invariance across Middle and High School Students [Article]. *Children & Schools*, 42(1), 53-62.
<https://doi.org/10.1093/cs/cdz026>

MEASURES FOR PRACTICE

Rules and Consequences

Circle the number that best describes your school.

Statement	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
1. Students listen to the teachers	1	2	3	4
2. At this school, teachers can handle students who disrupt class.	1	2	3	4
3. There are clear rules about student behavior.	1	2	3	4
4. Students are rewarded for positive behavior.	1	2	3	4
5. Everyone knows what the school rules are.	1	2	3	4