

Core Belief

In order to be successful in and out of school, students need to learn a set of social and emotional competencies—cooperation, assertiveness, responsibility, empathy, and self-control—and a set of academic competencies—academic mindset, perseverance, learning strategies, and academic behaviors.

Guiding Principles

Six principles guide the *Responsive Classroom* approach.



1 Teaching social and emotional skills is as important as teaching academic content.



2 How we teach is as important as what we teach.



3 Great cognitive growth occurs through social interaction.



4 How we work together as adults to create a safe, joyful, and inclusive school environment is as important as our individual contribution or competence.



5 What we know and believe about our students—individually, culturally, developmentally—informs our expectations, reactions, and attitudes about those students.



6 Partnering with families—knowing them and valuing their contributions—is as important as knowing the children we teach.