



Brian Smith

Ore Valley and York Township Elementary Schools
York, Pennsylvania



When I was a teacher, students would be pulled from my room by various individuals and sometimes I would never find out why. Now that I am an assistant principal, I have made it a goal of mine to communicate with students, families and staff whenever I pull a student out of class to talk to them.

Typically, when investigating a disciplinary situation during the school day or from the school bus, I meet with each child involved and have a one-on-one conversation with them. Sometimes I will meet with the same student multiple times or I talk to multiple students at one time. After investigating the situation, I send the students back to class and begin my communication process with families and staff.

Every time I talk to a student about a disciplinary situation, I contact home. It is my belief that families are an extension of school. If I want students to be successful citizens, I need their family support. Typically, these conversations go well, and I work with families to support their student and the choices that their child needs to make to be successful.

After communicating with families, I always follow-up with the teachers of the students involved. I describe the incident that occurred (as much as I can while following confidentiality rules), the actions that I took, and the outcome. I provide the teacher with the discipline that I am handing down to the student as well as how I reached out to the child's family. Although this communication with my teachers is mostly informational, I find that teachers support the students more with these behavioral concerns because they know and understand what had occurred in the situation.

Buses are where the majority of my discipline concerns occur. As I began my second year as an assistant principal, I realized that I needed to be on the same page with all of my drivers. Prior to the start of each school year, I have organized meetings with the drivers from each of my two buildings. I am able to share with the drivers student separations due to behavior incidents, explain our positive behavior support plans, and express my interest in wanting to help the drivers have a successful school year. I am in constant contact with my drivers.