

The Responsive Classroom®

A P P R O A C H

*A high-quality education for
every child every day.*

Responsive Classroom is an evidence-based education approach associated with greater teacher effectiveness, higher student achievement, and improved school climate. *Responsive Classroom* practices help educators build competencies in four key domains—each of which enables and enriches the others:



- ▶ **Engaging Academics** Teachers create learning tasks that are active, interactive, appropriately challenging, purposeful, and connected to students' interests.
- ▶ **Positive Community** Teachers nurture a sense of belonging, significance, and emotional safety so that students feel comfortable taking risks and working with a variety of peers.
- ▶ **Effective Management** Teachers create a calm, orderly environment that promotes autonomy and allows students to focus on learning.
- ▶ **Developmental Awareness** Teachers use knowledge of child development, along with observations of students, to create a developmentally appropriate learning environment.

*See why educators across the nation are embracing
this unique and effective approach to teaching.*

“This approach understands that success in a changing, global world depends upon individuals who can participate as effective communicators, team members, and problem solvers.”

—Dr. Steven J. Mayer, Superintendent, Robbinsville, NJ



Focus on Teacher Effectiveness

For over 30 years, *Responsive Classroom* has been empowering educators by giving them the skills they need to ensure a high-quality education that will help all students thrive in our highly connected, interdependent world.

Professional development in the *Responsive Classroom* approach strengthens educators' ability to:

- ▶ Design **lessons that are active and interactive**
- ▶ Use **effective teacher language** to promote academic and social growth
- ▶ Encourage engagement by giving students **meaningful choices**
- ▶ Start each day in a way that sets a **positive tone for learning**
- ▶ Set **high expectations** and teach students how to meet them
- ▶ Establish routines that promote **autonomy and independence**
- ▶ Build a sense of **community and shared purpose**
- ▶ Teach students **21st century skills** such as critical thinking, problem-solving, communication, collaboration, creativity, and innovation

“With every grant, I’m right at the front of the line saying, ‘And we need to build in funding for Responsive Classroom’ . . . Teachers feel comfortable with this program from the start. They see it not as an add-on but as something that’s easily part of what they do every single day.”

—Dr. Ruth Gilbert-Whitner, Superintendent, Whitman, MA

“The Responsive Classroom approach provides prime evidence that social and emotional teaching strategies, when well constructed, lead to improved classroom behavior and academic growth.” — Roger P. Weissberg, CEO, CASEL



Research on Responsive Classroom

Researchers at the University of Virginia’s Curry School of Education conducted a three-year randomized controlled study of the *Responsive Classroom* approach. Funded by the U.S. Department of Education, the researchers found that teachers’ use of *Responsive Classroom* practices is associated with:

- Higher quality standards-based instruction
- Gains in both math and reading achievement
- Equally strong gains for all socio-economic groups
- Greater gains for low-achieving students
- Better organized, more emotionally supportive classrooms

“The findings are part of a growing body of research showing that social-emotional learning can positively influence academic, as well as behavioral, results.”

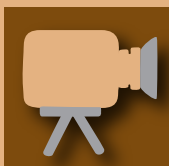
—“Researchers Link ‘Responsive’ Classes to Learning Gains,”
Education Week, Sept. 19, 2012

Nationally Recognized

Selected as one of the most well-designed, evidence-based social and emotional learning programs with potential for broad dissemination to schools across the U.S. by the Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning (CASEL)

Received distinguished achievement awards for professional development resources from the Association of Educational Publishers and Independent Book Publishers Association

IN ACTION



Responsive Classroom is transforming classrooms and schools across the country. To see what these classrooms look like and what the *Responsive Classroom* approach could mean for you, your students, and your district, go to

www.respondiveclassroom.org/about-responsive-classroom



“We’ve seen a very steep rise in our student achievement levels from getting the entire staff trained—classroom, special education, ESOL, specialist teachers, and instructional assistants.”

—Terry Phillips, principal,
Falls Church, VA

“A model of effective professional development and what it can achieve.”

—Sara Mosle,
New York Times



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An Array of Services and Resources

Choose from a broad variety of consulting services and professional development resources to meet your school’s or district’s needs, including:

- ▶ Multi-day trainings for teachers, specialists, administrators, and other school staff
- ▶ On-site follow-up coaching and assessment
- ▶ Distance and on-site consulting for school and district leaders
- ▶ Annual national conference for school and district leaders
- ▶ Many award-winning books, multimedia study kits, and free online resources

Any initiative works best when it becomes part of your school and district culture. We’ll work with you and your team to ensure that *Responsive Classroom* is sustained over the long run.

READY TO GET STARTED?

1. **Explore our website and call for a consultation** about options for bringing the *Responsive Classroom* approach to your school or district.
2. **Provide training for your staff.** Send staff to trainings (see current listings at www.responsiveclassroom.org) or bring *Responsive Classroom* professional development to your school or district (schoolservices@responsiveclassroom.org, 800-360-6332 x156).
3. **Check out our great professional development resources,** including books, videos, assessment tools, and multimedia study kits, at www.responsiveclassroom.org.



Responsive Classroom®

Center for Responsive Schools, 85 Avenue A, Turners Falls, Massachusetts 01376
www.responsiveclassroom.org ■ 800-360-6332