

The purpose of the Behavior Committee is to advise the Illinois State Board of Education and its member therapeutic day schools on what types of behaviors schools may wish to consider measuring in order to provide information to the state on the progress students are making in their schools. The goal of the committee is also to provide guidance as to what type of measures to use to collect the data and ways that the data can be reported. The goal is for each school to be able to report data to the state that best reflects the story they are trying to tell. Furthermore, a school may wish to measure length of time the behavior occurred for and not just the frequency. For example, while the total number of times a student is aggressive may not decrease, the time they spend in the aggressive act may decrease. This is useful information to report. The purpose is not to state what each school should measure, but rather to give information to schools about possible behaviors they wish to measure, how to measure them, and how to define the behavior so that all schools are using the same definitions. As students are referred to different schools for various reasons, no two schools may choose all of the same items to measure.

Furthermore, the purpose is not necessarily to show the state that a school has reduced its overall number of problematic behaviors, as some schools may not show reductions at overall levels due to changes in enrollment, or the rate of turnover. Thus, each school may report data differently, with some providing overall numbers of behaviors while others may report data by student progress. For example, one school may show that there was a 25% reduction in a certain problematic behavior from one year to the next, while another school may report that of those students who were present 12 months ago there is a 25% reduction in a specific behavioral difficulty.

Methods of reporting: Data can be reported in several manners. Frequency data could be reported by day, month, quarter, or yearly averages. Furthermore, data can be reported in many ways, including by comparing one month to another, one quarter to another, the first three months of a student's stay to the most recent 3 months, and multiple other ways as well. Data can also be presented as a percent of improvement. This can be done both by showing the overall percent of improvement, by the overall percent of students that showed improvement, or by averaging the overall percent of improvement for each student. For example, one way to show improvement would be to be able to saying something to the effect of "X% of students show improvement from the first three months they were in our school to the most recent three months". Again, the purpose of the committee is not to say how a school should present the data, but to give guidance and ideas about how it can be presented.