

smart goals for classroom management

Smart Goals for Classroom Management: A Guide to Creating an Effective Learning Environment

Smart goals for classroom management are essential tools that help teachers create and maintain a positive, productive learning environment. When educators set clear, measurable, and achievable objectives, they can better navigate the challenges of managing diverse classrooms. Establishing SMART goals not only provides structure but also empowers teachers to track progress and adjust strategies to meet students' needs effectively. In this article, we'll explore how to develop smart goals for classroom management, why they matter, and practical tips to implement them seamlessly into your teaching routine.

Understanding SMART Goals in the Context of Classroom Management

Before diving into specific examples, it's important to clarify what SMART goals are. The acronym SMART stands for Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time-bound. These criteria ensure that goals are well-defined and actionable, which is particularly useful in classroom settings where clarity and consistency are key.

Breaking Down the SMART Criteria

- **Specific:** Goals should be clear and focused. Instead of saying "improve student behavior," a specific goal would be "reduce instances of classroom disruptions during lessons."
- **Measurable:** There must be a way to track progress. For example, "decrease disruptions by 50%" provides a quantifiable target.
- **Achievable:** Goals need to be realistic, considering the resources and constraints teachers face.
- **Relevant:** The goal should align with the broader aim of enhancing the classroom environment and student learning.
- **Time-bound:** Setting a deadline, like "within the next semester," helps maintain focus and urgency.

Using these principles to frame classroom management objectives helps teachers stay organized and motivated.

Why Set Smart Goals for Classroom Management?

Classroom management involves strategies that promote a productive learning atmosphere and minimize distractions or disruptions. Without concrete goals, teachers might find themselves reacting to issues rather than proactively preventing them. Smart goals bring several benefits:

- **Improved Focus:** Clear goals guide efforts toward specific outcomes instead of vague intentions.

- **Enhanced Accountability:** Teachers and students alike can monitor progress and take responsibility for meeting expectations.
- **Better Communication:** Sharing goals with students fosters transparency and mutual understanding of classroom rules.
- **Continuous Improvement:** Measurable goals enable teachers to assess effectiveness and tweak strategies as needed.

By integrating smart goals into classroom management plans, educators create a roadmap that supports both teaching and learning.

Examples of Smart Goals for Classroom Management

To bring the concept closer to everyday teaching, here are some examples of smart goals tailored to common classroom challenges.

Goal 1: Reduce Classroom Disruptions

- **Specific:** Decrease the number of interruptions during lecture time.
- **Measurable:** Track disruptions using a tally sheet.
- **Achievable:** Aim for a 40% reduction, considering current behavior patterns.
- **Relevant:** Fewer disruptions lead to better focus and learning.
- **Time-bound:** Achieve this within eight weeks.

By monitoring interruptions and implementing strategies such as clear signals for attention or positive reinforcement, teachers can work toward this goal effectively.

Goal 2: Increase Student Participation

- **Specific:** Encourage more students to contribute during class discussions.
- **Measurable:** Record participation rates weekly.
- **Achievable:** Aim for at least 75% of students speaking up in class.
- **Relevant:** Active participation enhances engagement and comprehension.
- **Time-bound:** Reach this target by the end of the quarter.

Such a goal motivates teachers to create inclusive discussion formats and track which students may need additional encouragement.

Goal 3: Improve Timeliness of Homework Submission

- **Specific:** Increase the percentage of homework turned in on time.
- **Measurable:** Use the gradebook to monitor submission rates.
- **Achievable:** Target an 85% on-time submission rate.
- **Relevant:** Timely homework supports consistent learning progress.
- **Time-bound:** Achieve this over the next six weeks.

Teachers might introduce reminders, incentives, or structured deadlines to support this goal.

Strategies to Implement and Track Smart Goals for Classroom Management

Setting goals is just the beginning. To make smart goals effective, teachers need a plan for execution and ongoing evaluation.

Creating a Supportive Classroom Culture

A classroom that values respect, cooperation, and clear expectations is fertile ground for achieving management goals. Teachers can foster this by:

- Establishing and reviewing classroom rules collaboratively.
- Using positive behavior reinforcement systems.
- Encouraging student ownership of their behavior and learning.

When students understand and buy into the classroom culture, meeting management goals becomes a shared responsibility.

Utilizing Data and Feedback

Regularly collecting data related to set goals provides insight into what's working and what isn't. For instance, if a goal involves reducing disruptions, teachers might keep a daily log to identify patterns or triggers. Additionally, seeking feedback from students about classroom routines or rules can reveal hidden challenges and opportunities for adjustment.

Incorporating Technology Tools

Digital tools can simplify tracking and communication. Apps for behavior management, grade tracking, or even simple spreadsheets can help teachers monitor progress toward their smart goals efficiently. Moreover, sharing progress visually with students can boost motivation and accountability.

Common Challenges and How to Overcome Them

Even with well-crafted smart goals, classroom management can be complex. Some common hurdles include inconsistent enforcement of rules, lack of student engagement, or external factors affecting behavior.

Maintaining Consistency

Consistency is crucial in classroom management. Teachers should apply rules and consequences fairly and predictably. To support this, keeping detailed notes and reminders about classroom policies can help avoid unintentional mixed messages.

Adapting Goals When Necessary

Sometimes a goal may prove too ambitious or irrelevant due to unexpected circumstances. It's important to remain flexible and revise goals as needed without losing sight of the overall objective to improve the classroom environment.

Engaging All Students

Diverse classrooms mean varied needs and learning styles. Incorporating differentiated strategies and soliciting student input can help make goals more inclusive and achievable for everyone.

Integrating Smart Goals into Professional Development

Many educators find that linking classroom management goals with their own professional growth can enhance effectiveness. Reflecting on what works and what doesn't, participating in workshops focused on behavior management techniques, or collaborating with colleagues to share best practices can all contribute to better goal achievement.

Teachers who view classroom management as an evolving skill rather than a fixed challenge are more likely to sustain positive outcomes over time.

The journey of setting and working toward smart goals for classroom management is an ongoing process, one that fosters a more organized, respectful, and engaging learning space. With thoughtful planning, clear objectives, and adaptive strategies, teachers can make meaningful strides in shaping classrooms where both educators and students thrive.

Frequently Asked Questions

What are SMART goals in classroom management?

SMART goals in classroom management are specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, and time-bound objectives set by educators to improve student behavior and learning environment effectively.

How can teachers create effective SMART goals for classroom management?

Teachers can create effective SMART goals by clearly defining the desired behavior or outcome, setting measurable criteria for success, ensuring the goals are achievable within the classroom context, aligning them with overall educational objectives, and establishing a realistic timeline for achieving them.

Why is it important to use SMART goals for classroom management?

Using SMART goals helps teachers create clear and actionable plans to address classroom challenges, track progress objectively, maintain motivation, and ultimately foster a positive and productive learning environment.

Can you give an example of a SMART goal for classroom management?

An example of a SMART goal for classroom management is: 'By the end of the semester, reduce the number of disruptive incidents during class by 30% by implementing a positive reinforcement system and weekly behavior check-ins with students.'

How do SMART goals improve student engagement and behavior?

SMART goals provide clear expectations and consistent strategies, which help students understand what is required of them, encourage accountability, and promote positive behavior, thereby increasing engagement and creating a more orderly classroom.

Additional Resources

Smart Goals for Classroom Management: Enhancing Educational Outcomes Through Targeted Strategies

Smart goals for classroom management have become an essential framework for educators seeking to optimize their teaching environments. By setting goals that are Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time-bound, teachers can systematically address behavioral challenges, improve student engagement, and foster a productive learning atmosphere. This approach, rooted in goal-setting theory, provides both structure and flexibility, enabling educators to tailor their management strategies to diverse classroom dynamics.

As education evolves, classroom management remains a cornerstone of effective teaching. However, the complexity of managing student behavior and maintaining an optimal learning environment demands more than intuition or experience alone. Integrating SMART goals into classroom management methodologies allows teachers to define clear objectives, monitor progress, and adjust tactics in real time—ultimately enhancing both instructional quality and student outcomes.

The Significance of SMART Goals in Classroom Management

Classroom management, a multifaceted challenge for educators, encompasses everything from maintaining discipline to cultivating student motivation and engagement. SMART goals provide a strategic pathway to navigate these challenges by breaking down broad objectives into actionable and trackable steps. Unlike vague intentions such as “improve class behavior,” SMART goals

compel educators to articulate what exactly must change, how success will be measured, and within what timeframe.

The integration of smart goals for classroom management is aligned with educational best practices that emphasize data-driven decision-making. For instance, when a teacher sets a goal to “reduce the number of disruptions during group work by 30% within six weeks,” they establish a benchmark that can be quantitatively assessed. This contrasts with traditional, anecdotal methods of classroom control which may lack clear metrics and consistency.

How SMART Goals Facilitate Effective Classroom Control

Specificity is the foundation of SMART goals. In classroom management, specificity might translate to clearly defining desired behaviors, such as “Students will raise their hands before speaking.” This clarity helps students understand expectations and reduces ambiguity that often leads to misbehavior.

Measurability ensures that progress can be tracked, which is vital for teachers to evaluate the effectiveness of their interventions. By employing tools such as behavior charts or digital monitoring apps, educators can record incidents of disruptive behavior and measure improvements over time.

Achievability addresses the realistic nature of goals. Overly ambitious targets may demoralize teachers and students alike. Setting achievable goals—like “Increase student on-task behavior during independent study periods by 15% over the next month”—encourages incremental progress and sustained motivation.

Relevance ties the goal to broader educational outcomes and contextual classroom needs. A goal focusing on improving peer collaboration may be highly relevant in a classroom struggling with social dynamics, while a focus on punctuality might suit environments where attendance is problematic.

Time-bound parameters create a sense of urgency and a timeline for evaluation, which prevents goals from becoming open-ended ambitions. For example, “Implement a positive reinforcement system to decrease tardiness by 20% within eight weeks” sets a clear deadline for assessment.

Implementing SMART Goals: Strategies and Best Practices

Introducing smart goals for classroom management requires thoughtful planning and ongoing reflection. Educators benefit from a cyclical process of goal setting, action, monitoring, and revision. This iterative approach ensures that goals remain aligned with classroom realities and student needs.

Steps to Establish Effective SMART Goals in the Classroom

1. **Assess Current Classroom Dynamics:** Begin by identifying key challenges such as frequent disruptions, lack of participation, or inconsistent homework submission.
2. **Engage Stakeholders:** Involve students, parents, and possibly school administrators to gain diverse perspectives and foster buy-in.
3. **Formulate Specific Goals:** Translate observations into clear, targeted objectives, for example, "Decrease off-task behavior during math lessons by 25% in six weeks."
4. **Develop Measurement Tools:** Utilize behavior logs, surveys, or digital platforms to gather quantifiable data.
5. **Implement Interventions:** Apply strategies such as positive reinforcement, clear routines, or seating arrangements that support the goals.
6. **Monitor Progress and Adjust:** Regularly review data to determine if goals are being met and modify approaches as needed.

Examples of SMART Goals for Diverse Classroom Challenges

- **Improving Student Engagement:** "Increase student participation in class discussions from 40% to 60% over the next semester by incorporating interactive teaching methods."
- **Reducing Disruptive Behavior:** "Cut down the number of verbal interruptions during lessons by 50% within four weeks through the introduction of a classroom signal system."
- **Enhancing Homework Submission Rates:** "Raise homework submission rates to 90% over eight weeks by implementing a digital reminder system."

Benefits and Limitations of SMART Goals in Classroom Management

While the adoption of smart goals for classroom management offers numerous advantages, an analytical perspective reveals certain limitations worth considering.

Advantages

- **Clarity and Focus:** SMART goals eliminate ambiguity, providing teachers and students with a clear roadmap.

- **Enhanced Accountability:** Measurable objectives facilitate accountability for both educators and students.
- **Motivation and Engagement:** Achievable targets can boost morale and encourage sustained effort.
- **Data-Driven Adjustments:** Regular monitoring enables timely modifications to teaching strategies.

Challenges

- **Potential Rigidity:** Overemphasis on measurable data may overlook qualitative factors like student emotions or classroom culture.
- **Resource Intensive:** Tracking progress and collecting data requires time and effort, which may burden already stretched teachers.
- **Context Sensitivity:** Goals must be carefully tailored; a one-size-fits-all approach can be ineffective or counterproductive.

Educators must balance the structured nature of smart goals with the fluid realities of classroom interactions, ensuring that objectives remain student-centered and adaptable.

Integrating Technology and Professional Development

The contemporary classroom increasingly leverages technology to enhance management strategies. Digital tools can facilitate the creation, tracking, and evaluation of smart goals, making them more accessible and dynamic.

Applications and platforms designed for classroom behavior management allow real-time data collection, progress visualization, and even parent communication. This integration supports a continuous feedback loop essential for refining smart goals.

Moreover, professional development programs emphasizing goal-setting methodologies equip teachers with the skills needed to implement and sustain smart goals effectively. Training can cover data analysis, behavioral interventions, and collaborative goal setting, all of which contribute to a more strategic classroom management approach.

Smart goals for classroom management, when combined with technological resources and ongoing teacher education, represent a forward-thinking model that aligns with the demands of modern education systems.

As classrooms continue to diversify and educational expectations rise, the strategic application of SMART goals will likely remain a pivotal tool. Through specificity, measurement, and timely evaluation, educators can transform classroom management from a reactive challenge into a proactive,

structured process—ultimately fostering environments where both teachers and students thrive.

Smart Goals For Classroom Management

smart goals for classroom management: The Power of SMART Goals Anne Conzemius, Jan O'Neill, 2009-04-01 Help staff focus on results, and implement SMART (Strategic and specific, Measurable, Attainable, Results based, and Time bound) goals to transform your school into a place where every student meets or exceeds standards. The authors present four success stories from real SMART schools and several frameworks for adult and student goal setting that lead to real results.

smart goals for classroom management: Classroom Management “A Research-Based Analysis” Smt. Manju Bhadouria, 2024-08-29 About the Book This book Classroom Management: A Research-Based Analysis. addresses the universal challenges faced by educators in creating and maintaining a learning environment that is not only structured and orderly but also positive and engaging. Whether you are an experienced teacher or just starting out, the insights and strategies presented in this book are grounded in research, providing a reliable foundation for mastering the essential skill of classroom management. Through a blend of theory and practical application, this book aims to empower educators to foster environments where students can thrive academically, socially, and emotionally. Over the years, the field of education has undergone significant transformations, influenced by advancements in research, shifts in societal norms, and the integration of technology into the classroom. Amidst these changes, one truth remains constant: the effectiveness of a teacher's classroom management practices is directly linked to the outcomes students achieve. The ability to manage a classroom effectively not only impacts academic performance but also shapes students' social and emotional development, fostering an environment where they can thrive both inside and outside the classroom. Classroom Management: A Research-Based Analysis distinguishes itself by grounding its insights in solid research and practical applications. Each chapter is meticulously crafted to bridge the gap between theory and practice, offering educators strategies that are not only backed by research but also adaptable to the diverse and dynamic nature of today's classrooms. Whether you're dealing with the challenges of a traditional classroom setting or navigating the complexities of a virtual learning environment, the strategies and tools provided in this book are designed to be relevant and effective. What makes this book particularly valuable is its holistic approach to classroom management. It goes beyond the basic principles of discipline and behavior control to explore the broader aspects of creating a positive learning environment, addressing student diversity, integrating technology, and continuously improving teaching practices through reflection and professional development. This comprehensive perspective is essential in today's educational landscape, where teachers are expected to meet the needs of every student while managing increasingly complex classroom dynamics. As you delve into the pages of this book, you will find a wealth of knowledge drawn from decades of educational research and the lived experiences of educators. The chapters are rich with case studies, practical examples, and actionable strategies that can be immediately applied in your own teaching context. Additionally, the appendices provide valuable resources, including sample classroom management plans, tools, templates, and further reading suggestions to support your ongoing development. In conclusion, Classroom Management: A Research-Based Analysis is more than just a guide; it is a comprehensive resource designed to empower educators. Whether you are striving to enhance your current practices or seeking innovative strategies to address new challenges, this book will equip you with the knowledge and confidence needed to create a classroom environment where all students can succeed. It is a must-read for any educator committed to fostering a positive, effective, and inclusive learning environment. [Author- Smt. Manju

Bhadouria] [Senior Coordinator in Delhi Public School]

smart goals for classroom management: *Classroom Management* Mason Ross, AI, 2025-02-26 Classroom Management offers a comprehensive guide to creating effective learning environments, focusing on proactive strategies, positive behavior support, and intervention techniques. This academic textbook emphasizes that effective classroom management isn't just about controlling behavior; it's about fostering environments where students are motivated to learn and behave responsibly. The book draws upon educational psychology, behavioral science, and pedagogical research to provide educators with practical tools for enhancing student engagement and academic achievement. It highlights the importance of building positive relationships and fostering a sense of community, moving beyond traditional discipline models. The book uniquely emphasizes culturally responsive teaching, linking classroom management to issues of diversity, equity, and inclusion. One intriguing fact is the connection between classroom management principles and broader fields like conflict resolution and leadership development. Another insight is the focus on proactive planning and relationship-building over reactive discipline. The book progresses logically, starting with fundamental principles, then delving into strategies for creating a positive climate and addressing challenging behaviors, and finally discussing long-term strategies for sustained classroom management and self-regulation.

smart goals for classroom management: Classroom Management: A Guide for Teachers and Parents Pasquale De Marco, 2025-04-28 Classroom Management: A Guide for Teachers and Parents is an indispensable resource for educators and parents alike, providing a comprehensive and practical approach to creating positive and productive learning environments. Drawing upon cutting-edge research and best practices, this book offers a wealth of strategies and techniques for effectively managing student behavior, addressing a wide range of challenging behaviors, from disruptive and defiant behavior to academic misconduct and social problems. Recognizing that every classroom is unique, the book dedicates a chapter to behavior management for students with special needs, offering tailored strategies for supporting students with disabilities, emotional disturbances, autism spectrum disorder, and ADHD. It also acknowledges the growing diversity of today's classrooms, providing guidance on how to adapt behavior management strategies for English language learners, students from low-income families, students with different learning styles, and students with gifted and talented abilities. Effective communication lies at the heart of successful behavior management. The book emphasizes the significance of building positive relationships with parents and guardians, offering practical strategies for involving parents in their child's education, communicating student progress and behavior, and resolving conflicts constructively. It recognizes the transformative power of creating a safe and supportive classroom climate, exploring ways to promote respect, tolerance, and conflict resolution among students, while also addressing the challenges of managing online behavior and cyberbullying in the digital age. Classroom Management: A Guide for Teachers and Parents is more than just a collection of techniques and strategies; it is a call to action for educators to embrace a holistic approach to behavior management, one that values prevention, early intervention, and the development of self-management skills. It encourages educators to reflect on their teaching practices, seek feedback from colleagues and students, and engage in continuous professional development to stay abreast of current trends in behavior management. This book is an essential resource for educators and parents who are committed to creating positive and productive learning environments where all students can thrive. With its wealth of practical strategies, research-based insights, and focus on fostering a supportive classroom climate, Classroom Management: A Guide for Teachers and Parents empowers educators to transform their classrooms into thriving communities of learners, where every student feels valued, respected, and supported in their pursuit of academic success and personal growth. If you like this book, write a review on google books!

smart goals for classroom management: Beyond First Day Jitters Claire Donnelly, 2025-09-08 <p>Does the thought of stepping into your classroom fill you with a knot of worry? You're not alone. Every new teacher feels the weight of responsibility, wondering if students will

listen, how to handle disruption, and whether they can create a safe and inspiring learning space.

Beyond First Day Jitters is your roadmap to transforming anxiety into confidence. This practical and compassionate guide shows you how to build a thriving classroom where students feel safe, respected, and motivated to learn.

Inside you will discover:

- The root causes of new teacher anxiety and strategies to overcome them.
- The five pillars of effective classroom management.
- How to build trust and align expectations with students, parents, and community.
- Proactive strategies and tiered support models to prevent misbehavior.
- Engaging instructional techniques that keep students involved and reduce disruptions.
- Time management and self-care routines to prevent burnout.
- Ways to use reflection and data to continuously improve your teaching.

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It's time to trade anxiety for empowerment and step confidently into the classroom you've always dreamed of.

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development. Mentee/Mentor, Administrator, and Coordinator Checklists Mentor for success, student achievement and teacher retention with The Mentoring Year!

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smart goals for classroom management: *Reignite the Classroom* Tony Henderson, The spark is still there—it just needs a little fuel. Reignite the Classroom is Tony Henderson's call to action for educators ready to breathe new life into their teaching. In a time of burnout, disconnection, and rapid change, this book offers a powerful vision for renewing purpose, passion, and energy in schools. With practical strategies, heartfelt stories, and a deep respect for the craft of teaching, Henderson equips educators to reconnect with what matters most: meaningful relationships, joyful learning, and a sense of shared purpose. Whether you're a new teacher or a seasoned leader, Reignite the Classroom will help you light the fire—and keep it burning.

smart goals for classroom management: *The First-Year Teacher's Survival Guide* Michelle Cummings, Julia G. Thompson, 2024-03-26 The quick, comprehensive, and accessible guide that new educators need to make it through the first year and thrive in the profession. The First-Year Teacher's Survival Guide provides valuable strategies, activities, and tools you need to succeed in the classroom. Now in its fifth edition, this book meets the needs of today's K-12 teachers, updated with the latest tools, techniques, and topics that aren't addressed in teacher education programs. Inside, you will find practical information on classroom management, professional growth, trauma-informed practices, student engagement, social-emotional learning and more. You'll also get an essential introduction to teaching and learning in an AI-enabled world, as well as maximizing the use of digital tools, devices, and apps. With downloadable forms, templates, and additional resources available online, this book truly supports you as you enter the challenging and rewarding profession of education. Get ideas for communicating with concerned parents and caregivers Learn tips for maintaining a comfortable work-life balance and prioritizing self-care Help your students succeed with tech-integration and personalized instruction Maintain a calm, safe classroom with classroom management techniques, apps, and restorative practices Discover proven strategies for creating a positive classroom environment and, supportive relationships with students This must-have guide is filled with the information and tips new K-12 teachers need to face classroom challenges with confidence and thrive in the profession.

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smart goals for classroom management: The Social Emotional Classroom Anna-Lisa Mackey, Melissa Ragan, 2022-07-19 Learn to implement powerful new learning techniques in your classroom experience In The Social Emotional Classroom, celebrated educators and authors Anna-Lisa Mackey and Melissa Ragan deliver an insightful, rigorous, and accessible treatment of social emotional learning in education. Using research from the Theory of Constructed Emotion, the authors highlight the relationship between the new view of neurobiology and Social Emotional Learning. The book connects five key competencies, including self-awareness, social awareness, self-management, responsible decision-making, and relationship skills, to this new understanding of the brain. You'll also learn from: Teacher stories included in each chapter The inclusion of over two decades worth of experience and research in the field of social and emotional learning Instructions and guides for educators to embed social and emotional learning into their everyday practices Perfect for K-12 educators, principals, superintendents, and other education leaders, The Social Emotional Classroom will also earn a place in the libraries of parents and caregivers who are responsible for young people's day-to-day learning.

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smart goals for classroom management: Handbook of Classroom Management Carolyn M. Evertson, Carol S. Weinstein, 2013-10-31 Classroom management is a topic of enduring concern for teachers, administrators, and the public. It consistently ranks as the first or second most serious educational problem in the eyes of the general public, and beginning teachers consistently rank it as their most pressing concern during their early teaching years. Management problems continue to be a major cause of teacher burnout and job dissatisfaction. Strangely, despite this enduring concern on the part of educators and the public, few researchers have chosen to focus on classroom management or to identify themselves with this critical field. The Handbook of Classroom Management has four primary goals: 1) to clarify the term classroom management; 2) to demonstrate to scholars and practitioners that there is a distinct body of knowledge that directly addresses teachers' managerial tasks; 3) to bring together disparate lines of research and encourage conversations across different areas of inquiry; and 4) to promote a vigorous agenda for future research in this area. To this end, 47 chapters have been organized into 10 sections, each chapter written by a recognized expert in that area. Cutting across the sections and chapters are the following themes: *First, positive teacher-student relationships are seen as the very core of effective classroom management. *Second, classroom management is viewed as a social and moral

curriculum. *Third, external reward and punishment strategies are not seen as optimal for promoting academic and social-emotional growth and self-regulated behavior. *Fourth, to create orderly, productive environments teachers must take into account student characteristics such as age, developmental level, race, ethnicity, cultural background, socioeconomic status, and ableness. Like other research handbooks, the Handbook of Classroom Management provides an indispensable reference volume for scholars, teacher educators, in-service practitioners, and the academic libraries serving these audiences. It is also appropriate for graduate courses wholly or partly devoted to the study of classroom management.

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