

**DATE: AUGUST 19, 2020**

**TO: EDUCATION FOUNDATION OF INDIAN RIVER COUNTY**

**FROM: SEBASTIAN RIVER MIDDLE SCHOOL POSITIVE BEHAVIOR INTERVENTIONS AND SUPPORT TEAM (PBIS)**

**RE: 2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR GRANT – LETTER OF IDEA/INTENT**

**I. Proposal Summary:**

To purchase a Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports (PBIS) digital reward system for 2020-2021 school year that provides a seamless transition from paper “Cowboy Credits” to digital rewards. Students can earn rewards for demonstrating positive behavior and following the Indian River County School’s Code of Conduct.

**Program Title: *PBIS REWARDS***

**Description and Action:** A digital solution that provides an automated schoolwide PBIS management system. The program simplifies the implementation and tracking of the PBIS framework within a school. The *PBIS REWARD* software provides incentives to increase positive behavior in Academic and Social Emotional Learning (SEL) environments. The program is aligned to SRMS School Improvement Plan (SIP)\*, SDIRC Code of Conduct, and the IB/MYP Framework and Learning Profiles. Teachers will have access to the platform using the mobile app or desktop portal, and will reward students based on academic progress, the PBIS Model, The SIP, SDIRC Code of Conduct, and the IB/MYP Learning Profiles. Administrators can clearly see how teachers are implementing PBIS and how PBIS improves the school culture. There is a suite of PBIS Apps, including a parent App which allows parents a view into how their child is doing with respect to school behavior and academics in “real time”. The program has several unique opportunities for rewarding students throughout the campus. **All** staff members can use the Mobile App to reward students during class transitions and in the cafeteria; essentially anywhere on campus by scanning the student ID card. (All students will be given ID cards to scan for lunch, these are compatible to the Rewards App). Teachers can reward their students individually, as a class, or by teams. Once students are rewarded points, they can redeem them for real life privileges in the classroom, items from the school store, and participation in school wide activities. Each teacher can set up their own token system where they assign points and determine rewards. There is also a component that allows Administrators to reward teachers for implementing PBIS strategies in their classroom; which improves teacher buy-in. The program has an administrative component that collects analytical data and tracks the behavior of each student. Data will be used to monitor student academic performance, track discipline, identify and monitor behavior, and evaluate the implementation of the PBIS Model schoolwide. The program provides real time data that identify and monitor behavior patterns and recognize when a student needs additional support from the Student Success Coach. The *PBIS REWARD* program is compatible to The SDIRC Student Information System. The program is designed to meet the needs of all 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> graders regardless of learning platforms\*\*. There is no additional equipment or hardware needed.

**Targeted Population:** 950 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> graders; 67% Economically Disadvantaged (2019 SIP Data). SRMS is a Title One School.

**Program Cost/Grant Request: \$2352.50 total includes: \$1,852.50** that includes premium access for all teachers and students, administrative dashboard, and support. (\$1.95 per pupil) and a **\$500.00** Base Fee for setting up the program. The Program is renewed every year. Once installed, SRMS will be able to sustain the program annually by using the money saved from printing paper “Cowboy Credits” each year.

**Issues to address:** Student attendance, behavior interventions and discipline referrals, classroom management, improved student outcomes as stated in the SIP.

**Desired Outcomes:** Improve student attendance rate, decrease discipline and classroom referrals, address student mental health issues, improve classroom management, increase student academic achievement, meet the needs of the SIP, and improve SRMS School Grade. (*Research supports that since the implementation of the PBIS model,*

*schools have an average of 35% fewer Office Discipline Referrals across the years and an average of 46% fewer Out of School Suspensions. (WWW.flpbis.org 2017-2018 Annual Report).*

## **II. Organization Description, History, and Need**

**Sebastian River Middle School is a PBIS school.** This model consists of three critical features: systems, practices, and data. Staff work together to promote positive, predictable, safe environments for everyone in the entire school setting. *PBIS is a national program that consists of the following Multi-Tiered framework. A Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) is a data driven, problem-solving framework to improve outcomes for all students. MTSS relies on a continuum of evidence – based practices matched to student needs. The PBIS component of MTSS focuses on social behavior.* MTSS is a public health initiative that emphasizes three tiers of prevention. SRMS applies this model as a way to align academic, behavior, social, and emotional supports to improve education for all students. (Center on PBIS; <https://www.pbis.org/pbis>) The PBIS component of MTSS is the driving force that removes the academic and behavioral barriers that prevent students from being successful in school and the community. SRMS has a PBIS leadership team that includes a Student Success Coach, and is made up of teachers, staff, and administrators who are responsible for implementing supports and training for creating effective classroom environments. The National Center on PBIS requires the PBIS committee to submit data that supports the use of PBIS strategies and the overall effect the program has on the entire school and the school's published SIP. In 2019-2020, SRMS received a Gold Status for its improved student outcomes, reduced exclusionary discipline data, and improved teacher outcomes. Gold is the highest Status a school could receive in 2019-2020. **The Goals of the PBIS team are to:**

1. Build effective, positive school environments which increases school safety
2. Improve academic and behavior outcomes for all students
3. Prevent and/or reduce problem behaviors using a collaborative, assessment-based approach for developing effective instruction and interventions
4. Teach and reinforce appropriate behavior to enhance social-emotional learning, leading to meaningful and durable lifestyle outcomes across a multi-tiered system of supports (*Positive behavioral interventions and supports, University of South Florida College of Behavioral and community sciences, Florida PBIS project*)

As we witnessed this past year, schools need to adapt and change their learning platforms to meet the needs of all students. The School District of Indian River County has embedded Social Emotional Learning into the curriculum across all disciplines and has developed a new Code of Conduct that includes eliminating traditional discipline and moving towards restorative practice and positive behavior support. The goal is to address the reason for the problem; not just the problem. In these unprecedented times it is imperative that schools create programs that meet the academic and social emotional needs of all students. An alternative platform for rewarding students is necessary to minimize the spread of COVID 19, and to include those students who chose online learning platforms to meet their educational needs. For additional information please contact Sharon S. Dotson, PBIS Team Member at 772-564-5170 or [Sharon.dotson@indianriverschools.org](mailto:Sharon.dotson@indianriverschools.org).

**\*The Mission of Sebastian River Middle School is to develop citizens who are nationally and globally conscious, possess personal integrity, and pursue academic excellence through content area literacy. Our efforts will create life-long, self-motivated learners who actively serve their communities. Goal#2 Culture and Climate: SAFE AND ORDERLY SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT: Staff and students thrive in positive learning and work environments where they feel safe, supported, and celebrated. (SRMS 2019-2020 School Improvement Plan)**

**\*\*Brick and Mortar, Transitional, Online**