Behavior serves a purpose for the student. All behaviors, including problem behavior, allow the student to get a need met (i.e., behavior serves a function).

- This behavior has worked in the past, or is currently working to get something the student desires, or avoids/protests something the student wishes to remove.
  - The BIP must identify the function of the problem behavior in order to develop a plan that teaches an alternative replacement behavior that serves the same function.

Behavior is related to the context/environment in which it occurs.

- Something is either in the environment, or NOT in the environment which increases the likelihood the behavior will occur.
  - The BIP must identify what environmental features support the problem behavior in order to know what environmental changes will remove the need to use the problem behavior.

There are two strands to a complete behavior plan. Changing behavior requires addressing both the environmental features (removing the need for use of problem behavior to get needs met) AND requires teaching a functionally-equivalent behavior that student can use to get that same need met in an acceptable way.

- A complete BIP must address both strands: make environmental changes that support acceptable behavior, AND specify how to teach or elicit functionally equivalent acceptable behavior. When a plan is implemented well and change is not occurring, evaluating whether both strands were addressed is a first step.

ADDITIONAL BIP CONCEPTS AND COMPONENTS

- New behavior must be reinforced to result in maintenance over time
  - BIP must specify reinforcement for new functionally equivalent behavior (BIP may also wish to specify general reinforcement for positive behaviors)

- Implementers need to know how to handle problem behavior if it occurs again
  - BIP must specify reactive strategies ranging from prompting the alternative replacement behavior through distraction, redirection, progressive removals, school and district disciplinary required actions

- Communication needs to be between all important stakeholders, frequently enough to result in the continuous teaming necessary to achieve success
  - BIP must specify who communicates with whom, how frequently and in what manner.