Activities to Address Belief Barriers

How to best alter beliefs

- Non-confrontational
  - Not singling any person out
- Reflective conversations
- Develop discrepancy

Promoting Growth Mindset

- Every teacher has the capacity to continue to grow
- Self-control and resilience are teachable and learnable
- Given the plasticity of the brain, we can grow new and positive habits
- Effort, not innate talent, is the best path towards mastery
- Challenges and setbacks are welcomed because they represent an opportunity for growth of skills and brain
Mindset of the Perfect Educator

• Have staff list the beliefs or mindset of the perfect educator
  – Handle every situation the best
• Reflective discussion of whether these beliefs are capable of being possessed by real people
• What would it take to remember these beliefs and let them guide one’s practices?

Evidence or Proof of Particular Beliefs

• Step 1: List important, supportive beliefs that are linked to the implementation of particular practices
• Step 2: What would be the evidence or proof that is visible in the educator’s behavior or practices that they believe this?
• Step 3: What would be evidence or proof that that is visible in the educator’s behavior or practices that contradicts the belief?

Imagine in a school far far away, if staff believed the following, what are the implications for student outcomes?

• Staff believed that it wasn’t their job to support students.
• Staff believed that students must give respect before getting it.
• Staff valued their content more than connecting with students.
• Staff unintentionally contributed to a negative climate.
• Staff believed that because of high test scores, there wasn’t a need to support students socially and emotionally.
• Staff believed it was the parents’ job to teach behavior—not their responsibility.

Pros and Cons

• List the pros and cons of specific beliefs
• On one side of the chart list the pros and the other the cons
• Have a discussion about whether the pros outweigh the cons
Linking Personally Relevant Goals to Specific Practices

• How could certain practices be facilitative of the attainment of certain personally-relevant goals?
  – Proactive classroom management
  – SW-PBIS (orderly, productive, and safe environments)
  – Progressive response to problem behavior
  – SEL instruction