

Importance of Positivity In Schools

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Introduction

Bringing positivity into a school climate is important in many aspects. Sometimes a school is the only positive place that a child will visit. Many things can be done in make sure the school climate is positive. Staff just has to understand why it is important to make sure the learning and school environment they create is positive. As an adult, how would you feel if you had to go somewhere almost every day and it was not a positive environment?



Ways to be build a positive school culture

- Create meaningful parent involvement
- Celebrate personal achievement and good behavior
- Establish school norms that build values
- Set consistent discipline
- Engage students in ways the benefit them
- Professional Development for teachers

* Perlini, 2015

** Raudys, 2018

Professional Development Topics

- Conflict Management and Resolution
- Time Management Tips
- Master Change in the Workplace
- Goal Setting
- Celebrating Diversity and Practicing Inclusion
- Importance of Teamwork

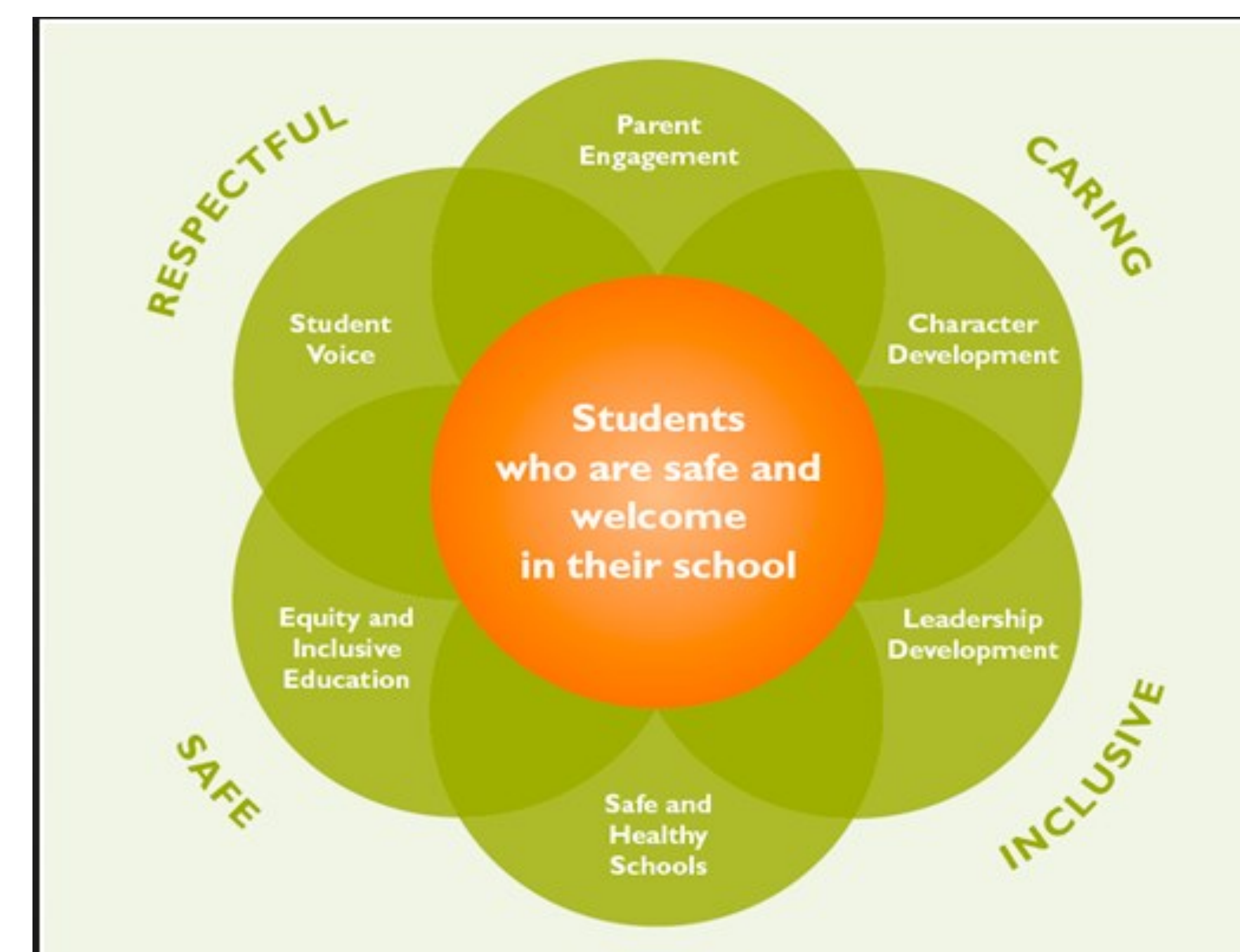
Research

Power of a positive school environment

In a positive school climate, principles of equity, diversity, and inclusivity become embedded in the learning environment, promoted through the behaviors and interactions of students and staff, and applied teaching materials (Hopson, Schiller, & Lawson, 2014; Thapa et al., 2013).

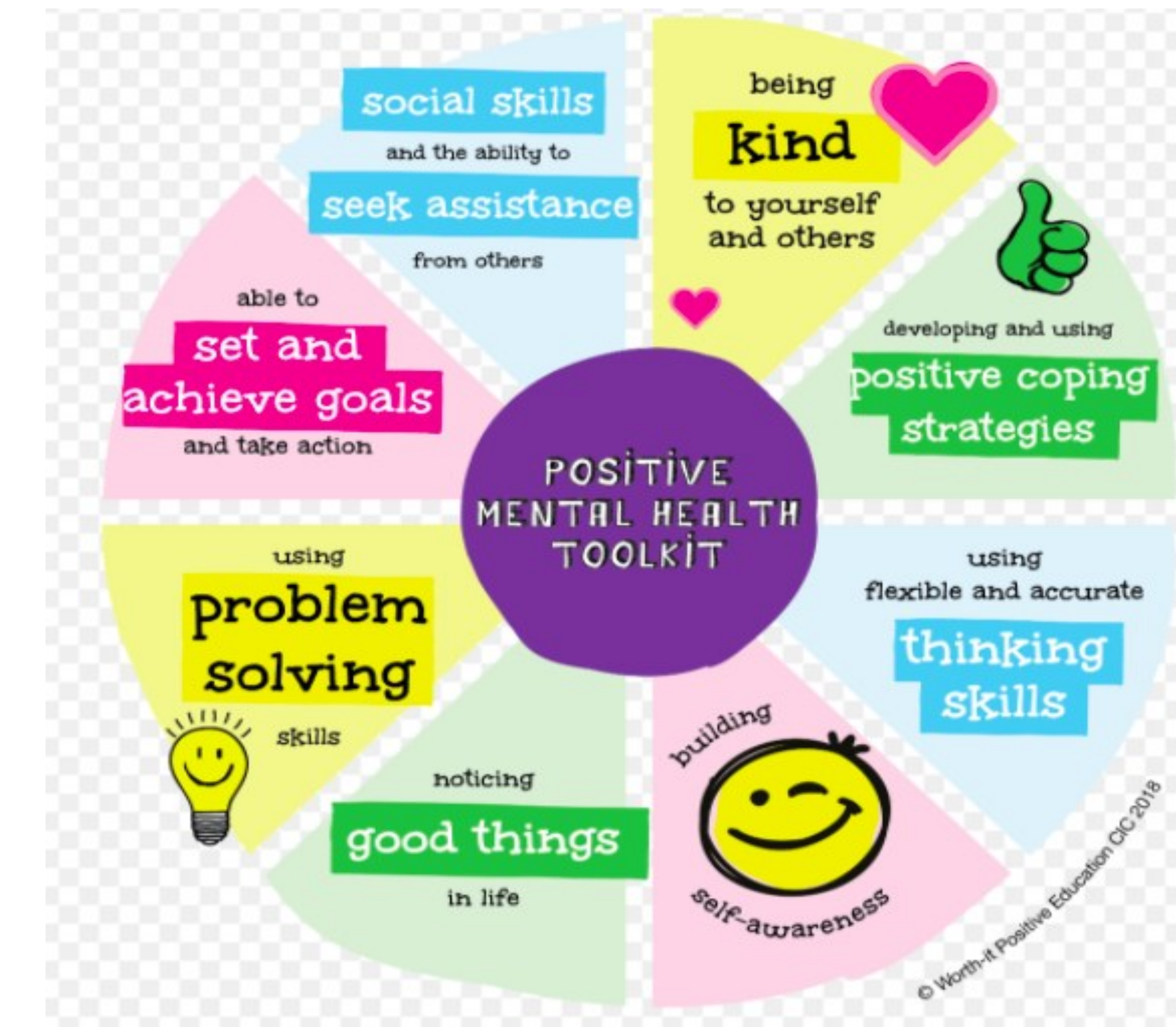
A positive school climate has been associated with higher academic achievement, school success, and students' healthy development (Hopson, Schiller, & Lawson, 2014; Thapa et al., 2013).

Local communities and school districts are invoked in shaping the attitudes and values conveyed in the school system. (Fantus & Newman, 2020)



The influence positivity has on resilience and conflict

- Schools are not only one of the foremost important social resources for students, they are also a place where students spend much of their time. Children's experience in schools shape many aspects of their lives, which has a fundamental effect on children's development (Adi-Japha & Klein, 2009).
- A positive school climate is an important resilience factor for students living under bad conditions (Yablon, 2015)
- When students maintain schools activities during times of ongoing violence, and when schools provide a positive emotional (safety) and physical climate, students demonstrate greater resilience (Yablon, 2015)



Positivity and Mental Health in Schools, with an emphasis on PTSD

- A safe school environment and a high level of positivity in school facilities are related to less PTSD (Yablon, 2015)
- The more students who regularly attend school (in spite of the violence) the less the risk for PTSD (Yablon, 2015)
- It is therefore important for schools to differentiate between resilience factors that are associated with less PTSD and those which are related to PTG, and to design the school climate accordingly. (Yablon, 2015).
- The students' school connectedness and their teachers' support were found to be positively related to higher post traumatic growth. These two aspects represent the measure that students are involved in what happens in their school, that they feel cared for and part of their school (Thapa et al., 2013; Zullig et al., 2010).
- show that as school facilities improve, girls become more resilient and exhibit less PTSD than boys



Conclusion

Limitations of studies

- One of the studies got data from student self-reports. This is an implication, because stronger data could have been collected, such as from teachers, school records, and other types of data.
- Data could have been collected from schools in other types of areas, such as rural and urban. This could have given more information on if the location of the school had an impact on positivity.



How School Counselors can apply this information to their practices?

Many factors go into making sure a school has a positive climate. Some of those factors can be harder to control than others. It is important that School Counselors aware of what those factors are and what can be done to increase the positivity in a school. Positivity in schools have been shown by research to increase the student morale. Also, staff morale could be increased due to positivity as well. Due to life stressors, for example, the pandemic, this can effect everyone as a whole. So, school counselors would need to implement supports in different areas to ensure and to boost the positivity in the school.

References

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- Hopson, Schiller, K, & Lawson, H. (2014). Exploring Linkages between School Climate, Behavioral Norms, Social Supports, and Academic Success. *Social Work Research*, 38(4), 197-209. <https://doi.org/10.1093/swr/svu017>
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