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Handout 21: Promoting Internal and External Resiliency

Internal Resiliency: Within-child factors that allow for competence despite exposure to external stressors.

Methods to promote internal resiliency:

- Promote active (or approach-oriented) coping styles
- · Promote student mental health
- Teach students how to better regulate their emotions
- · Develop problem-solving skills
- Promote self-confidence and self-esteem
- Promote internal locus of control
- Validate the importance of faith and belief systems
- Nurture positive emotions
- Foster academic self-determination and feelings of competence

External Resiliency: Contextual factors that allow children to achieve competence despite exposure to stressors.

Methods to promote external resiliency:

- Support families
- Facilitate peer relationships
- Provide access to positive adult role models
- · Ensure connections with prosocial institutions
- Provide a caring and supportive learning environment
- Encourage volunteerism
- Teach peace-building skills

Strategies and Programs to Improve Climate, Safety, and Resilience

- School-wide positive behavior interventions
- School-wide social-emotional programming
- Effective, appropriate, and nondiscriminatory disciplinary policies and procedures
- Violence prevention programs
- Suicide prevention programs
- Bullying prevention programs
- Diversity awareness programs
- Gang prevention and resistance programs
- School-based mental health services

References

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Smith Harvey, V. (2007, November). Resiliency: Strategies for parents and educators. *Communiqué*, 36(3), insert. Retrieved from http://www.nasponline.org/publications/periodicals/communique/issues/volume-36-issue-3/resiliency-strategies-for-parents-and-educators

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