POPULAR MYTHS REGARDING PBS

"The positive in Positive Behavior Support means we give out rewards"
The positive refers to a change of focus from reactive, constantly pointing out what students did wrong (negatives), to proactive teaching and recognizing what children are doing right (positives). It refers to an overall change in the school climate to a learning environment where students and teachers feel appreciated, safe and respected. Rewards are used to assist staff in focusing on the positive.

"We will no longer punish children for inappropriate behavior"
PBS does not ignore inappropriate behavior. Consequences are more than "punishment". They are the actions that follow the inappropriate behavior and can either help to increase or decrease inappropriate behaviors. PBS views appropriate consequences as those that are effective in changing the student's inappropriate behavior. Schools plan for inappropriate behavior by matching the level of consequences to the severity of the problem behaviors and maintaining consistency across campus.

"PBS uses bribes to get children to behave"
Using a reward system is not the same as bribing a student to behave appropriately. A bribe is something offered or given to a person in a position of trust to influence that person's views or conduct. PBS acknowledges and rewards students for following school-wide expectations and rules. Appropriate behavior is acknowledged after it occurs. Rewards are earned, not offered as payoff in exchange for good behavior.