



PATHWAY TO INCLUSION:

An Oakview Elementary Story



BACKGROUND

Oakview Elementary School and Centralia School District joined as an IPTN Demonstration site district in 2024. Their work focuses on schoolwide inclusion, highlighting Tier 1 MTSS strengthening, predictable safety-focused routines, and proactive regulation supports as core strategies all aimed at ensuring every student has access, support, and a sense of belonging. Oakview serves roughly 300 K-6 students plus a developmental preschool (~40 children). The community includes multilingual learners, students receiving special education services, and students experiencing housing instability. Oakview centers relationships, safety, and the belief that all students can learn and achieve at high levels.

MISSION & VISION

Oakview's daily practice reflects a clear mission: students must Maslow before they Bloom. The vision is a safe, predictable, and joy-filled school where high expectations, empathy, and collaboration help every child grow—academically, socially, and emotionally. Staff commit to consistent routines, explicit teaching of expectations, and responsive supports so every Top Cat is known, cared for, and ready to learn.



***Our Vision:**
All Students Achieve Academic and Personal Excellence!*

***Our Mission:**
Prioritize Students- Uphold High Expectations- Champion Hope- Cultivate Collaboration*

TIMELINE OF INTENTIONAL MOVES

Oakview's Tier 1 journey has unfolded through steady, intentional growth. In 2021, during a leadership transition and the district's shift to K-6 grade-band configurations, the school began rebuilding Tier 1 as a true whole-school system, establishing shared expectations and a unified team approach across classrooms and programs. By 2023-2024, Oakview had sharpened its alignment and strengthened structures, forming a cross-role leadership team—including the principal, behavior specialist, counselor, and behavior support staff—to help "steer the ship." This phase brought universal screening, stronger SST and wraparound supports, clearer radio protocols, and expanded classroom calm corners. In summer 2024, a multi-role team attended the CharacterStrong conference in Tacoma, returning with shared language, refreshed tools, and tighter consistency for expectations and routines. Throughout, Oakview has remained committed to prevention over reaction—embracing a "Smokey the Bear" mindset—while implementing schoolwide systems such as breakfast on arrival, predictable transitions, dedicated data-dive time, weekly PLCs, celebration assemblies, and a midyear "celebration walk" that recognizes individual student growth.



OAKVIEW ELEMENTARY'S TIMELINE

INCLUSIVE PRACTICE: PROACTIVE REGULATION & RE-ENTRY

Oakview created the Top Cat Den, a structured, low-stimulus regulation space where students briefly center, lower anxiety, and re-enter ready to learn. It is explicitly not a consequence space; it's relational, instructional, and inclusionary. Every classroom also has a calm corner with simple tools and routines so regulation starts in class first, with the Den as a next step when needed. This dual system minimizes office traffic, protects dignity, and speeds return to instruction.

INCLUSIVE PRACTICE: PREDICTABLE, SAFETY- FOCUSED ROUTINES

From the first bell, Oakview runs on visible adult presence and consistent touchpoints—students may interact with 10–15 caring adults between the gate and the classroom. Morning announcements anchor the day; every student is offered breakfast to meet basic needs. Dismissal uses a numbered, radio-assisted system to ensure safety and calm transitions (with discreet visual cues for students who need added protections). Predictability reduces cognitive load, increases trust, and frees students' brains for learning.

INCLUSIVE PRACTICE: TEACHING EXPECTATIONS & REINFORCING BELONGING

Schoolwide expectations—ROAR (Respectful, On-task, Always Safe, Responsible)—are explicitly taught and posted in every setting (fountain, nurse, playground, etc.). CHAMPS provides shared patterns for behavior and participation so students know what success looks and sounds like. Positive systems (e.g., Principal 200 tickets, assemblies, "The Big Deal") and targeted Practice Academies (brief re-teaching for a few when the class is largely meeting expectations) reinforce skills through connection rather than compliance.

NEXT STEPS

Oakview will continue to deepen Tier 1 consistency while tightening the Tier 2 "middle" with clearer entry/exit criteria, skill groups, and progress monitoring from universal screening and SST. The team will sustain prevention-first practices (relationships, breakfast, predictable routines), expand student self-management and co-regulation strategies, and keep celebrating individual growth. Guided by the SIP goals—high expectations, joy, self-management, and academic success—Oakview will refine data use (attendance, behavior, academics) to target supports earlier and ensure every Top Cat is safe, seen, and successful.

