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**Low SES = SUCC-ESS! How to Guide  
ALL Students to Success**

**CLINICIANS:**

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# Low SES = SUCCESS

## How to guide ALL students to success

### Components of Success

1. Build a culture of excellence  
Culture encompasses all aspects of the band program!
2. Create your foundation-- build from the bottom up
3. Continue program growth
4. Director teamwork

### 1. Build a Culture of Excellence

- Culture starts with YOU!
  - *Congratulations, you are already building a culture in your program by staying and working through the pandemic and its aftermath.*
- Teach at one campus long enough to build up:
  - Inventory and library
  - Musical traditions
  - Social traditions
  - Community (band family)
- Have long term plans: 2 year, 3 year, 5 year...

#### *Band must be integral part of school culture:*

- Educate all stakeholders: parents, administrators, staff, community
  - Create a visible profile for your program
  - Communicate clearly and frequently
  - Engage in administrative tasks outside of your band hall
  - Perform for school AND community
- Connect with other programs
  - Full orchestra/8th Grade Band Night with HS
- Be an advocate for your band
- Make your classroom inviting
- Culture creates retention
- Balance music instruction with life skills
  - Excellence in musical performance
  - Excellence in caring for each other

One size fits all: great for socks, bad for beliefs  
-Colin Wright

### 2. Create Your Foundation: It all starts with beginners.

- Clear expectations, care for the individual
- Focus on fundamentals
  - Tonal Concept
  - Rhythm understanding
  - Technical facility of instrument
  - Performance

- How to be a band kid
- All students excel and move to the appropriate level in 2nd year of study (Non-Varsity/Varsity)
- Create sense of personal growth
- Individual success plus group success = high retention
- Peer tutoring
  - Band aides
  - Open practice to induce sense of community
- Non-competitive in year one
- Plan and teach with the end in mind (8th grade Varsity)
  - Gaps in varsity ability reflect gaps in beginner learning

## Director Initiatives

1. Build the individual
2. Be a great role model
3. Teach students to love music like you do
4. Be intuitive and flexible
5. Have empathy and compassion

## 3. Continue Program Growth: Keep the ensembles progressing.

- Group by ability
- High expectations but realistic to individual abilities
- MUST have performance opportunities for all ensembles
- Student involvement in music selection
- Make band fun
  - Super Saturday practice with fun and games afterward
  - Play games in rehearsal
    - Jaws of Joy, Don't Break the Chain, Rhythm Master, Last One Standing
  - Dress up days

## 4. Director Teamwork

- Find/build the right team
- Build mentorship from within the team or consultant
- Every director teaches ALL kids
- Create teamwork within ensembles and within staff
- Must be vertical alignment--team teach with the high school staff
- Co-teach sectionals

Thank you!

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