

Preface

The first edition of *Preventing Problem Behaviors*, published in 2002, evolved from a group of research projects funded by the U.S. Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) to prevent serious emotional disturbance in school-aged children. It was an outgrowth of a collaborative design team comprised of representatives from the funded projects and spearheaded in large part by Pam Kay. In addition to the book, the collaboration resulted in much-appreciated collegiality, several published monographs about effective school practices in the prevention of behavior problems, panel presentations at OSEP Project Director's meetings in Washington, D.C., and some wonderful professional development exchanges over dinners in Georgetown. Design team membership also provided a "home base" at professional meetings—particularly for those new to special education research and writing—and a substantial opportunity to get to know and collaborate with researchers from a diverse group of universities around the country.

Pam was a primary driving force behind the group. She was full of ideas that made any time spent with her very beneficial. She also was a tireless advocate for children and families. The mother of two boys with disabilities herself, she always found ways to balance professional and family responsibilities without shortchanging or upstaging either. We valued our professional and personal associations with Pam and were deeply saddened by her untimely passing in 2007. We thought it only fitting, therefore, to dedicate this edition of *Preventing Problem Behaviors* to Pam, who was an inspiration to us in planning it and in seeing it come to fruition. She took great pride in the first edition of the book, and we share the second edition as part of her legacy.

One of Pam's most cherished causes was making sure that education professionals attended to the needs of students with emotional and behavioral problems. Along with many school administrators and professional colleagues, she was concerned about the frequent shortage of resources and expertise in school settings and an inability to provide needed interventions for these students (issues also cited by the Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health). Pam was especially troubled when older students, in particular, who presented emotional and behavioral challenges seemed to become "the unwanted" in their school systems. Her passion for making sure that efforts encompassing prevention and intervention were a top priority in all schools was inspirational to everyone who knew her.

With these memories of Pam in mind, we developed the second edition of *Preventing Problem Behaviors* to (a) keep the spotlight on the array of strategies and interventions that teachers and administrators can use to serve students who present challenging behaviors and (b) continue her efforts to support and improve the quality of education for *all* students. As the education profession increasingly acknowledges the prime importance of social-emotional learning programs, along with a focus on academic learning and accountability, we are optimistic that the preventive, research-based approaches described in this book will provide a broad perspective on important issues, promote

positive learning environments, and be responsive to all children's needs. The approaches described include schoolwide programming, classroom-based strategies, individualized behavior plans, and communication with families and the community. All are designed to address problems proactively and to promote the idea that education professionals share the responsibility for providing the best possible learning opportunities for all students, especially for those students with emotional and behavioral problems.

Like the first edition, this book is a collaborative work that speaks for each of us, as well as for our colleagues who have shared their knowledge, expertise, and perspectives with us. We deeply appreciate all that they did to help make it happen, and we also acknowledge the assistance and support provided by the editorial and production professionals at Corwin.

We hope you enjoy the book.

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