

Strategies for Effective Teaching and Learning

Guidelines for Establishing Classroom Rules

- Keep the wording of rules simple and clear.
- Select the fewest possible rules (three to six).
- Use different rules for different situations.
- Rules should be stated behaviorally, and they should be enforceable.
- Rules should be stated positively.
- Rules should be reasonable.
- Specify consequences for both rule adherence and rule infraction, and provide consequences consistently.
- Give examples and nonexamples of each rule.
- Discuss the need for rules in the classroom.
- Check for student understanding of rules.
- Review rules regularly.
- Post the rules in a prominent location in the room.
- Obtain written commitments from students that they will follow the rules.

SOURCE: Adapted from B. Burden, *Powerful Classroom Management Strategies* (Thousand Oaks, CA: Corwin Press, 2000); M. Kerr and C. Nelson, *Strategies for Managing Behavior Problems in the Classroom*, 6th ed. (Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson Education, 2010).