



Staying in the Green: A Stoplight Study Skills Program



Program History

Cecilia Di Masi, Liberty school counselor, designed this program 13 years ago. She created the program to teach listening and study skills in an easy-to-understand way. Because Ms. Di Masi was working in a school with a large number of English Language Learners, she chose the stoplight symbol as a simple way to communicate with students and families. Students have clear expectations and are able to be successful in school. They are taught that school is their 'job' and they need to, "Come to school each day on time, do all work, turn it into the Boss (teachers), follow Liberty Rules, and just do it. . . Doing it the first time is MAJOR GREEN."

Mrs. Di Masi designed this study skill program so that it would be used by all teachers throughout a school. This allows for consistency across classrooms and grade levels. All staff, including before and after school caregivers now use the "Staying in the Green Stoplight Study Skills Program."

Parents are often brought in and work with school staff so that children realize they have a team of people working with them for optimal student success.

The "Staying in the Green Stoplight Study Skills Program" is a positive, empowering tool used at Liberty to make ALL of our students successful members of our community.

Program Components

- ★ **Green Book assignment notebook**-separate one for primary & intermediate; sent home DAILY to be reviewed and signed; 99% parent participation!
- ★ **Classroom stoplight**-varies by classroom & level; used to monitor each student's color status; important as a visual cue for students to 'fix' behavior.
- ★ **Referral notes**-used by Staff to refer a student to Coach D. to 'fix' yellow or red mistakes that persist.
- ★ **Business Lunch/Fun Lunch**-given to students who have had multiple referrals and still need to 'fix' their mistake; or for students who have had success 'fixing' their mistakes.
- ★ **All-day stoplight**-used with students who need a more detailed, individual stoplight to help 'fix' yellow and red behaviors.
- ★ **Monthly "Green" parties**-celebration for students who have 'earned' a party with all of their hard, "green" work.

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