



## LESSON 1.5 No Freshman Left Behind!

### Module #1: High School Survival Skills

In every high school, there are basic skills that freshmen will need to know to get through the first couple weeks of school. They need to be able to navigate their way through the building and begin to understand the many differences between middle school and high school. Getting started on the right foot is important, and this module helps freshmen do just that!

### Enduring Understandings

- I. High school and middle school are different, and there are basic pieces of information, skills, and strategies needed to successfully navigate the high school experience.
- II. Getting to know other freshmen and making school spirit a priority will create a better high school experience.

### Essential Questions

- I. What key school personnel, procedures, and locations do I need to know in my high school? (I)
- II. What basic responsibilities are associated with being a high school student? (I)
- III. Why do I need to know the other freshmen in my class? (II)

### Lesson Objective(s)

Students will establish class goals for the school year in the areas of academics, attendance, discipline, and extra-curricular participation.

Lesson 1.3

Lesson 1.4

**Lesson 1.5**

Lesson 1.6

Lesson 17

### Directions:

1. Hopefully, prior to conducting this lesson, you (faculty advisor and student leaders) have established an important goal for yourselves – that each of your freshmen will successfully complete the ninth grade on time. Now, it's time to discuss some goals with your class.
2. Create a list of descriptors that define a successful ninth grade year. These descriptors may include things like: (1) earning honor roll recognition; (2) no discipline referrals; (3) perfect attendance; (4) no f's on the report card; (5) participation in school activities; (5) earning enough credits to become sophomores.
3. Work with your freshmen to establish goals for the class to ensure that every member of the class successfully completes the year. You may want to establish quarterly goals (or even weekly goals) rather than goals for the year. Goals may sound like this: (1) Our class will maintain a 90% or better attendance rate for the quarter; (2) 100% of our class will attend at least one homecoming activity; (3) 100% of our class will have no discipline referrals this quarter.
4. Once you have established the goals (for the week, quarter, and/or year), display the goals in the classroom and chart progress each day (or week or month or quarter). You may want to consider establishing a rewards system (or a competition with other Focus classes) for each goal check along the way. This, along with some good peer pressure, may just help keep your ninth graders on track!

### Materials & Supplies

- Chart paper
- Markers
- Tape

FOCUS  
POINT

Remember why you're doing this. You want to see every freshman succeed. You know all the "little" things that, combined, will lead to a successful ninth grade year. Share this with your class and help them hold each other accountable for succeeding.

- Make it a competition! Coordinate the goals your class sets with other Freshman Focus classes. See who ends up with the highest percentage of students reaching goals. The winning class can earn an award like a class pizza party!

resources  
&  
extension