

# Classroom Rules

## OPEN Resource Introduction

**WHAT:** This collection of classroom environment tools is designed to help teachers establish simple classroom rules and expectations that foster feelings of safety and trust and are aligned with CASEL’s social and emotional learning competencies.

*What’s included:*

- ✓ Classroom Rules Poster (Printable)
- ✓ Believe In You Student Empowerment Rights Poster (Printable)
- ✓ SEL Alignment and Sample DOK Questions (3-page packet)
- ✓ Classroom Rules Large Icons (Downloadable PNG Image Files)

**HOW:** Use OPEN’s three classroom rules as category umbrellas for establishing classroom norms with input from your students. Align the discussion of these norms to the Believe In You Student Empowerment Rights in order to focus student attention on social and emotional learning concepts.

Share the rules one at a time, and then take 5–10 minutes to discuss what each rule looks like, sounds like, and feels like in your physical education setting. Discuss class rules, along with the impact of student behaviors on student empowerment rights. Use a variety of discussion formats to build a positive and respectful culture of collaboration. Consider talking in large and small groups as well as in pair-share partner discussions.

**WHY:** Teaching toward student behavioral outcomes will require student trial and error — just like all other skills and concepts. We must recognize that making behavioral mistakes is an important part of the process. Quickly growing from mistakes and then swiftly restoring order to classroom management routines is the ultimate goal and requires a classroom culture of mutual respect, support, and acceptance. Authentic discussions that provide students with ownership of class rules and consequences will strengthen culture and give students a critical voice. This voice empowers students to own class rules and routines rather than feel like all expectations have been forced on them from the top down.

**WHEN:** Establish, discuss, apply, and reinforce class rules and norms on day one and on every day after that. Just like with all other skills and concepts, correct behavior issues when you see them. If needed, revisit class rules and have ongoing discussions on why established norms are important.