Big Idea/Topic
Attention Signal

Standard Alignment
Health Standard 4: Students will demonstrate the ability to use interpersonal skills to enhance health and avoid or reduce health risks.

Instructional Design

Define Simply
Describe the attention signal and how it will be used to gain students’ attention before instruction is provided. Once the attention signal is complete students should be silent, listen, and keep their eyes on the teacher.

Model/Demonstrate with Examples
Demonstrate the attention signal of your choice, or let students help you choose their favorite. You can start with the examples or make up some new ones with your class. Teaching new signals throughout the year and mixing them up will keep it interesting.

Teacher | Students
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“Give me five” | Raise their right hand (Video Example)
Use clapping or rhythm pattern | Repeat clapping or rhythm pattern
“Waterfall, waterfall” | Make a waterfall motion and say “shhhhh"
Class, class (say it in different ways (e.g., slow) | Yes, Yes (Video Example)
Use song pattern students enjoy (clean) | Repeat song or sing next line

Practice in All Relevant Settings
Practice the attention getting signals with student responses in multiple settings. (e.g., classroom, library, computer lab).

Monitor & Provide Positive Feedback and Reinforcement
When teaching and practicing attention signals, remember to give behavior specific praise when the class uses the signal and waits silently for direction. For example, “Excellent job class! You listened and responded perfectly!”

Based on Data, Adjust Instruction & Reteach
Teachers should give students many opportunities to practice the attention signal. If many students are not responding to the attention signal, it may be time to reteach and increase praise to reestablish the routine.
**Evidence of Student Success**

- Student success will be demonstrated when students listen, respond, and keep their eyes on the teacher after the attention signal.

**Distance Learning Supports**

- This strategy can be adapted for distance learning by letting students turn their mics on or sending a message in the chat box.

**Engaging Families**

- Let families submit their favorite song to be used as an attention signal or incorporate different languages your students may speak at home into your attention signals (e.g., call and response a common phrase in Arabic, Spanish, etc.).