Big Idea/ Topic
Peer Encouragement Routine

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

Instructional Design
Define Simply
Creating a safe community in the classroom and normalizing that struggle is part of learning can be a challenge. This routine creates an opportunity for students to encourage each other, which can also proactively prevent problem behavior such as teasing each other. When a student is processing or thinking before responding, students can “send them magic.” This involves students wiggling their fingers toward the student who is thinking. Teachers can prompt students by saying, “send Hector some magic.” After a student responds, the class can snap their fingers as a quick recognition of the bravery it takes to answer the question. The student may not have the correct answer, but they were still brave and tried their best. Teachers can prompt students by initiating the “giving of snaps.” Please view this video to see the strategy in action (Video Example). The motions can be replaced with other non-verbal signals; giving your class the choice may help encourage participation.

Model/Demonstrate with Examples
Teacher can model both “sending magic” and “giving snaps” with students. Both activities are quick and then we move on to the next thing.

Practice in All Relevant Settings
Practice both “sending magic” and “giving snaps” in different locations. This can even be used during PE class to encourage each other with athletic activities.

Monitor & Provide Positive Feedback and Reinforcement
Teachers can reinforce this behavior by participating and praising students for their teamwork.

Based on Data, Adjust Instruction & Reteach
Teachers should monitor how these routines are working, and add additional practice and reinforcement whenever needed.

Evidence of Student Success
- Student success will be demonstrated when students in a class encourage each other by “sending magic” and “giving snaps” without teacher prompts or reminders.
## Distance Learning Supports
- This concept can be utilized as an online activity using “magic fingers” the same way (cameras on) and “giving snaps” using the applause or thumbs up reaction buttons.

## Engaging Families
- Students may teach their families how to “send magic” when something is difficult and “give snaps” as an encouragement.