

The Power of Mindsets: Creating a Positive School Climate

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The power of mindsets

Mindsets: The assumptions and expectations we have for ourselves and others that guide our behavior. Mindsets play a powerful role in impacting on all aspects of the climate that is created in a school

The power of mindsets

What is the mindset with accompanying strategies of educators who are effective in touching both the hearts and minds of students and increasing the chances they will succeed in the school setting? Do we articulate and discuss the concept of mindsets at staff meetings?

Features of a positive mindset

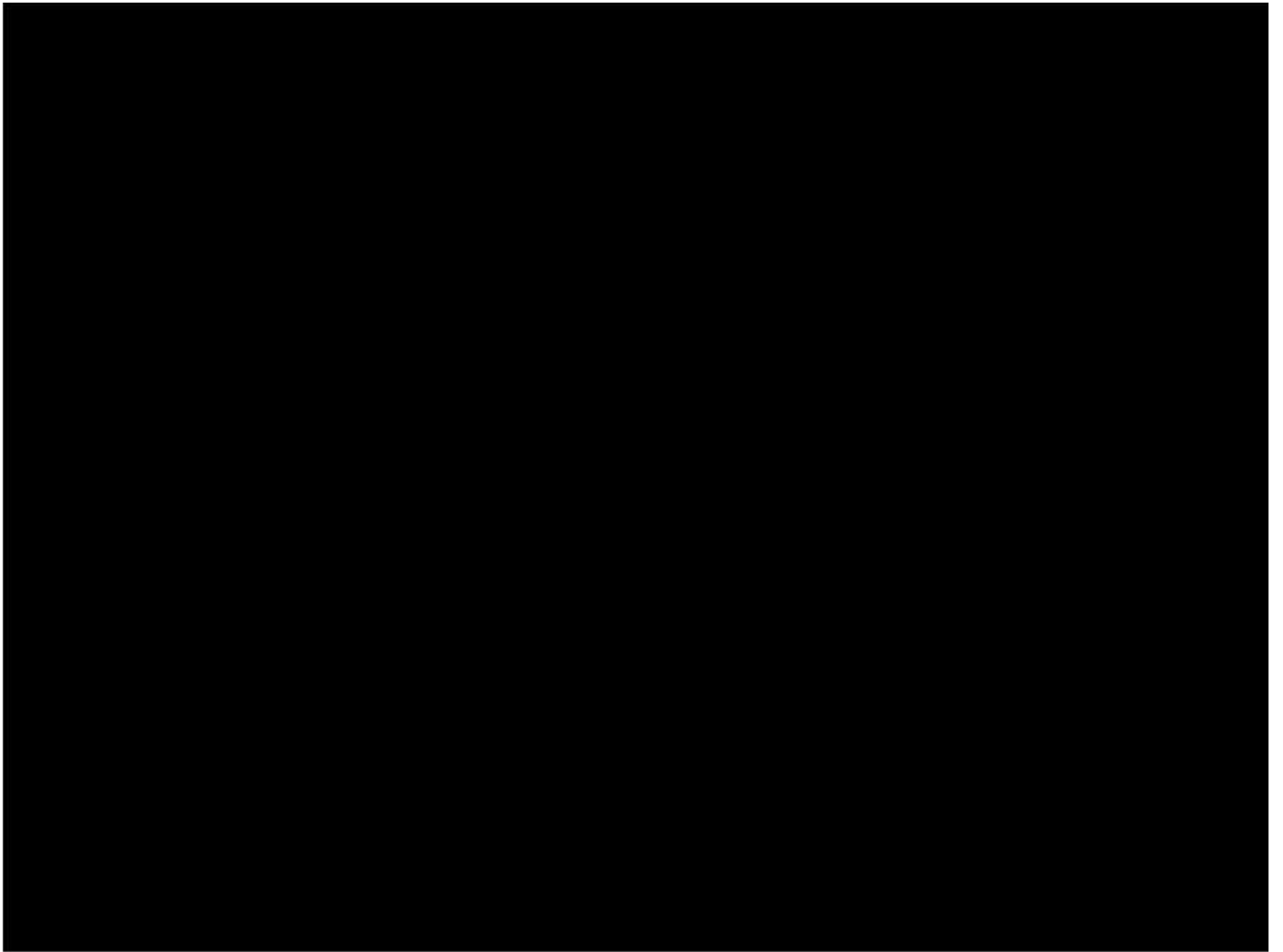
To believe in the capacity of students to become more hopeful and resilient:

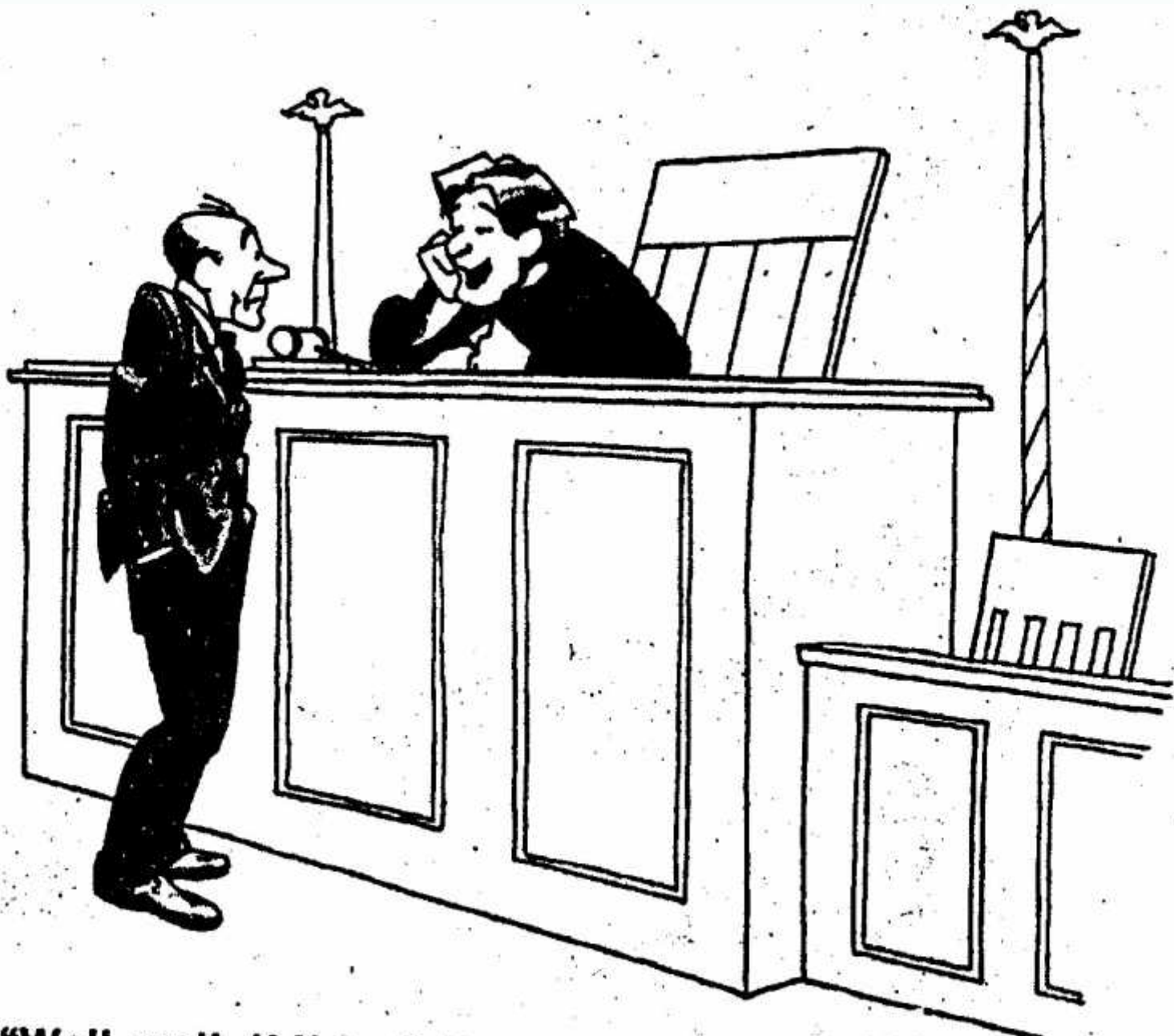
To believe we can serve as a
“charismatic adult”

“I want to be a charismatic adult. What do I have to say and do?”

Special People







“Well, well...if it isn't the guidance counselor who told me I'd never amount to anything.”

STALEY

BUT I DON'T WANNA
GO BACK TO SCHOOL!
NOBODY LIKES ME!
THEY TEASE ME, AND
PULL MY HAIR, AND
BEAT ME UP!
I HATE IT!

NO ONE SAID
TEACHING WOULD
BE EASY, DEAR.



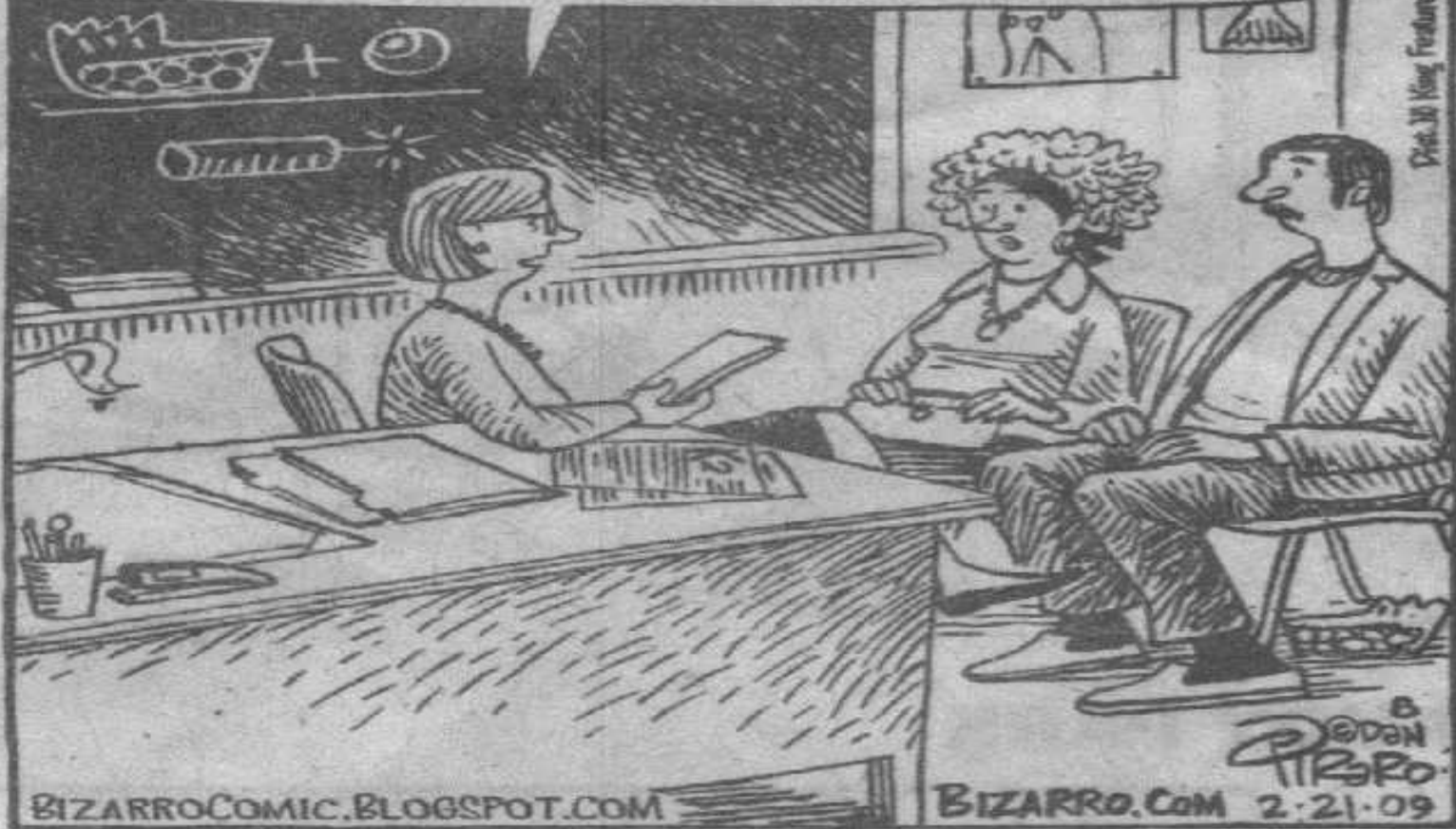


Abbott

" I KNOW YOUR TEACHERS ARE VERY DEMANDING
AND ALL THE KIDS AVOID YOU, BUT YOU HAVE TO GO TO
SCHOOL, DEAR ... YOU'RE THE PRINCIPAL! "

BIZARRO by Dan Piraro

In my 23 years of teaching, your son is my favorite student to have absent.



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I really think all Timmy needs is a little tutoring and a good exorcist.



Alien Song



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Features of a positive mindset

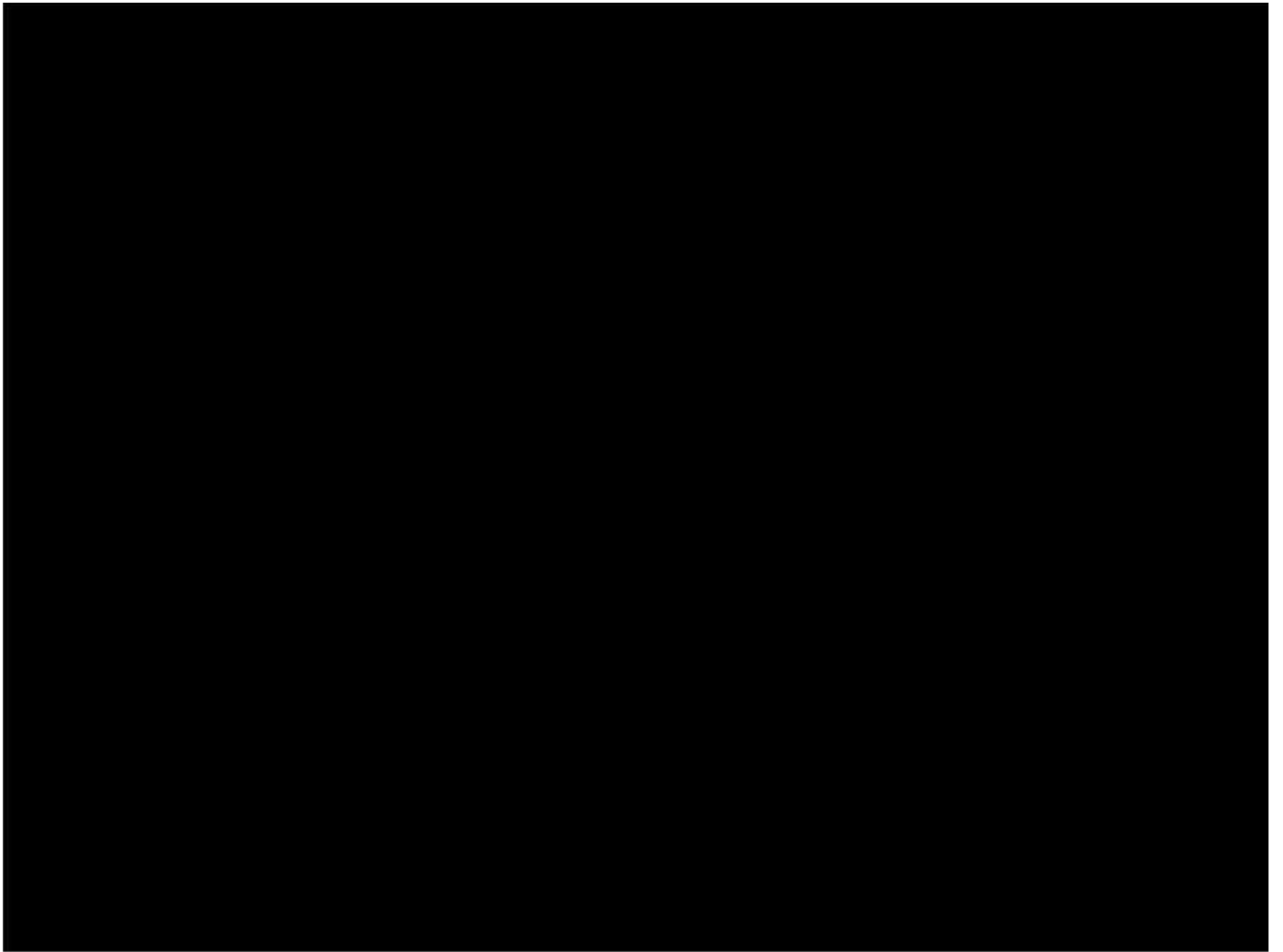
To believe that all children from birth want to learn and be successful

To believe that all students are motivated, but unfortunately, some are dominated by “avoidance motivation” as a way of protecting themselves from situations that they believe will lead to failure and humiliation

Features of a positive mindset

Thus, rather than asserting that children are lazy or unmotivated or don't care, we should ask, "How do we lessen avoidance motivation in children who use it?" Answering this question will lead us to think more creatively and outside the box and help us to keep children in school





Features of a positive mindset

To create “motivating environments” that nurture learning, student engagement, intrinsic motivation, and resilience: Deci’s focus on basic needs that apply to administrators, staff, parents, and students—guideposts for action

Features of a positive mindset

1. The need to belong and feel connected (and let's add the word welcome): When any member of the school environment feels alienated, learning and achievement will be compromised and anger and resentment will become dominant features

2. The need for self-determination and autonomy, which are significant features of a sense of ownership and resilience: What input and choices do all members of a school community feel they have? Do they feel their voice is being heard and respected?

3. The need to feel competent: To identify and reinforce each student's "islands of competence"
 - a. Do we provide opportunities for "contributory activities"?
 - b. Do we help students recognize that mistakes are expected and accepted?