

NaBITA recently published a set of twenty standards related to behavioral intervention teams. These standards are provided in two primary documents, with a third coming soon:

- **Standards Summary Sheet:** This [two-page PDF](#) offers a brief summary of the standards for teams.
- **Advisory Board Publication:** This [ten-page document](#) offers a more detailed view of the standards, including goals and footnotes.
- **Research Paper:** This twenty-page research paper, coming this fall, will offer a more detailed, research-based discussion of the standards.

To help ensure that the standards are seen by the field and explained in detail, a twenty-part series will be featured in Tip of the Week format. While these 20 Tips of the Week will not necessarily be consecutive so that NaBITA can continue to bring you timely and topical tips, the goal is to help teams work through the standards and apply them to their campus or school setting.

As your team thinks about using the standards to improve how your BIT operates, hopefully these more informal discussions and questions will allow you to think about how to apply these standards more effectively.

To that end, consider the following ways in which you can start using the standards on your campus now:

1. Sharing a copy of the standards with team members at the start of the year – have team members go through the standards and check off the ones that the team is following, and which ones need improvements moving forward.
2. Setting aside part of a meeting each month to talk through one standard in more detail and identify ways in which the team can improve its current practices of the standard.

Please be sure to contact [Makenzie Schiemann, M.S.](#) or [Brian Van Brunt, Ed.D.](#) with any questions about the standards or challenges with implementation.

### **BIT Standards 7 & 8: Team Mission and Team Scope**

Teams should develop a clear mission statement which identifies the scope of the team, balances the needs of the individual and the community, defines threat assessment as well as early intervention efforts, and is connected to the academic mission. This mission statement should outline who the team should engage.

Let's break this down into more manageable pieces. The mission statement should define the scope and reach of the team – anyone who may be a focus of the team's attention – such as faculty, staff, off-campus students, prospective students, community members, camps and summer programs, etc. Based on 2018 survey data, about half of the teams in the country also address faculty and staff concerns, whether through a singular BIT model or a split model with both student-facing and faculty/staff facing teams.

Another key challenge of teams is balancing the needs and rights of the individual and the larger safety of the community. For example, while a student may benefit from being on campus and having access to more expansive support structures, if they are not able to abide by the school's conduct standards, there may need to be a larger discussion of either accommodations or a separation. When cases involve a student threatening another, a proper threat assessment should be used to better inform early intervention efforts. Ultimately, the BIT wants all members of the community to be safe and academically successful.

For more examples of mission statements and a larger discussion related to the development of these statements, please view NaBITA's 2019 Whitepaper: [Who's on the Team? Mission Membership, and Motivation](#).

**For team discussion, consider:**

1. Does your team have a mission statement? How was it developed? How is it shared with others?
2. What are some strengths and weaknesses of your team's mission statement? What unique aspects to your campus should be taken into account when developing a mission statement?
3. What are some of your concerns about a team working with both students and faculty/staff?

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