

# The ZONES of Regulation® Glossary

- Self-regulation:** The ability to achieve the preferred state of alertness for the given situation. This includes regulating one's body's needs as well as one's emotions.
- The Zones:** A concept used to help students learn how to self-regulate. The Zones of Regulation creates a system to categorize how the body feels and emotions into four colored zones with which the students can easily identify.
- Blue Zone:** Used to describe a low state of alertness. The Blue Zone is used to describe when one feels sad, tired, sick, or bored.
- Green Zone:** Used to describe the ideal state of alertness. A person may be described as calm, happy, focused, or content when he or she is in the Green Zone. The student is in control in the Green Zone.
- Yellow Zone:** Used to describe a heightened state of alertness. A person may be experiencing stress, frustration, anxiety, excitement, silliness, or fear when in the Yellow Zone. The student maintains some control of himself or herself in the Yellow Zone.
- Red Zone:** Used to describe an extremely heightened state of alertness. A person may be experiencing anger, rage, explosive behavior, panic, extreme grief, terror, or elation when in the Red Zone and is described as being "out of control."
- Toolbox:** A collection of calming and alerting strategies a student can pull from depending on the present need.
- Tools or strategies:** Used interchangeably to refer to a calming or alerting technique that aids the student in self-regulation.
- Trigger:** An irritant that causes a student to become less regulated and increases the likelihood of going into the Yellow or Red Zone.
- Stop, Opt, and Go:** A concept used to aid students in controlling impulses and problem solving better solutions. This phrase is paired with a stoplight to provide additional cues for students.
- Expected behaviors<sup>1</sup>:** Behaviors that give people around you **good or comfortable thoughts** about you.
- Unexpected behaviors<sup>1</sup>:** Behaviors that give people **uncomfortable thoughts** about you.
- What is the size of the problem? and Is this a Big or Little Problem?<sup>2</sup>:** Questions posed to help students measure the size of the problem they are experiencing (Big Problem, Medium Problem, or Little Problem).
- Big Problems:** Problems that many people share and that have no easy, quick, or pleasant solution.
- Medium Problems:** Problems some people share that are able to be resolved in an hour to a couple of days.
- Little Problems:** Problems that only affect one to two people and can be ignored or solved in a matter of minutes.
- Inner critic:** Used to describe negative, self-defeating thoughts.
- Inner coach:** Used to describe positive thoughts.
- Superflex thinking<sup>2</sup>:** A flexible thinking pattern in which a person is able to consider different points of view or ways to do something.
- Rock Brain thinking<sup>2</sup>:** A rigid thinking pattern in which a person gets stuck on an idea and has difficulty considering other options or ways to do something.

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1 Social Thinking vocabulary developed by Michelle Garcia Winner, *Thinking About YOU Thinking About ME* (2007)

2 Social Thinking vocabulary developed by Stephanie Madrigal and Michelle Garcia Winner, *Superflex: A Superhero Social Thinking Curriculum* (2008)