



Restorative Practices: Building a Culture of Connection and Accountability Community of Practice and LEA Support

Introduction

October 2014

During the 2014-2015 School Year, the OSSE Division of Elementary, Secondary, and Specialized Education, in partnership with Community Conferencing Center, will host a professional development opportunity for LEAs on building a positive school climate through Restorative Practices and Positive Behavior Supports. This opportunity will focus on using practices that build safe and effective learning environments through positive relationships, connection, and accountability. The format of this training will consist of two all-day kick-off trainings and six follow-up sessions.

The kick-off trainings are designed to build participants' understanding of the principles and processes of Restorative Practices, which include experiencing dialogue circles to collectively find ways to resolve issues and learning how Restorative Practices can address challenges of current school practices. Teams will also learn how these practices are part of a School-Wide Positive Behavior Support (SW-PBS) framework that provides a continuum of support for all students.

LEA teams will be brought together monthly as a state Community of Practice (CoP) to develop skills, discuss challenges, share best practices, and offer support to one another. Representatives from Community Conferencing Center and OSSE will facilitate the monthly CoP meetings. LEA's are encouraged to select team members who are committed to implementing positive discipline approaches, have authority to make decisions around discipline, and are knowledgeable about behavior interventions.

About Community Conferencing Center

The Community Conferencing Center (CCC) is a conflict transformation and community justice organization that provides ways for people to safely, collectively and effectively prevent and resolve conflicts and crime. The work of the Community Conferencing Center has been recognized nationally and internationally for its use of restorative justice and conflict management strategies in a variety of settings, including criminal justice, education, community development and business. For more information, see: www.communityconferencing.org/

Goals

- LEA teams will build a strong foundational knowledge of Restorative Practices and learn how these practices can effectively address current school challenges around behavior and discipline.
- LEA teams will apply Restorative Practices to a multi-tiered intervention framework of school-wide Positive Behavior Supports
- LEA teams will develop specific plans for how to implement Restorative Practices in their school.

Requirements

LEA Teams

OSSE is looking for 5 school teams, consisting of 3 to 4 members. Each team must include an LEA Executive/Administrator or Designee and Dean (or equivalent discipline designee). Additional members may include the following positions: Social Worker, School Psychologist, Teacher, or other Relevant Staff Member who will be part of implementing these practices.

LEA Commitments

LEA Teams must commit to the following required project activities:

- Attendance at the all-day kick-off events on **November 18 & 19, 9:00 am-3:30 pm** at The Charles Sumner School, 1201 17th St. NW
- Participation in the State's CoP. The meetings will be from 9am until 12pm at OSSE or various school sites on the following dates: **December 16, January 27, February 24, March 24, May 26, and June 23**
- Leadership commitment to support more effective alternatives to suspension and other exclusionary discipline
- Agreement to assess impact through data tracking and reporting

Cost

This project is fully funded by OSSE. There is no cost to LEAs; however, it is expected that all participating LEAs commit the necessary time, resources, and energy to help make this project successful.

Next Steps

Each interested LEA must complete the attached materials and submit by the deadline of **Wednesday, November 12, 2014** to be considered for this project.

Pre-Training Knowledge Assessment

Members of your LEA Team must take a brief survey, asking about their current level of knowledge with regard to Restorative Practices and Positive Behavior Support. The link to the survey will be sent upon receipt of your LEA's letter of interest. Each LEA will designate a point of contact from their LEA Team who will serve as the liaison with OSSE for this training series.

Letter of Commitment

LEA: _____

Campus (if applicable): _____

Please designate a point of contact from your LEA Team who will serve as the liaison with OSSE for this training series. POC: _____

Participating Staff

LEA Executive or Designee

Name: _____ Position: _____

Email: _____

Signature: _____

Dean/Discipline Designee (or equivalent)

Name: _____ Position: _____

Email: _____

Signature: _____

Other Staff

Name: _____ Position: _____

Email: _____

Signature: _____

TEXT

Other Staff

Name: _____ Position: _____

Email: _____

Signature: _____

Letter of Commitment from LEA Leader:

I, _____ will ensure that my LEA meet all of the requirements including:

- Attendance at the all-day kick-off events on **November 18-19 at The Charles Sumner School, 1201 17th St. NW**
- Participation in the State's CoP. The meetings will be from 9am until 12pm at OSSE on the following dates: **December 16, January 27, February 24, March 24, May 26, and June 23**
- Leadership commitment to support more effective alternatives to suspension and other exclusionary discipline
- Agreement to assess impact through data tracking and reporting

Signature _____ Date _____

Applications must be received no later than close of business November 7, 2014.
Please submit applications via email to: osse.tta@dc.gov with subject line:
Application submission Restorative Practices



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