

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

IN SCHOOLS



What is Restorative Justice in Education?

- Restorative justice in education is a philosophy that supports school communities in building trusting nurturing relationships with students, staff and families through open communication, community building, collaboration, and conflict resolution.
- This kind of community engagement has roots in indigenous approaches to living in relationship with others, including traditions of storytelling in circles and reintegration of those who have harmed others within the community.

What Are the Principles of Restorative Justice in Education?

- Focus on the harms or wrongdoing to relationships and community norms more than on the rules that have been broken.
- Empower those who have been harmed and show equal concern for their needs in the restorative justice process.
- Support individuals who have harmed others, while encouraging them to take personal responsibility for their actions by understanding, accepting, and carrying out their obligations to the person they have harmed.
- Provide opportunities for dialogue between individuals who have harmed others and those most affected by the wrongdoing.
- Encourage collaboration and reintegration rather than punishment and isolation.
- Show respect to all parties involved in the wrongdoing by involving all equally in the resolution process.

What Are Restorative Practices?

- Restorative practices are skills and processes used in classrooms, throughout the school building, and during family events and meetings. These skills are grounded in the values, mission, and culture of the school community.
- In restorative schools, skills and processes are used to:
 - ▶ Develop communication and conflict resolution skills between students, students and staff, and staff and families.
 - ▶ Enable students and staff to be socially and self aware, build relationships, and develop effective self-management and responsible decision-making abilities.
 - ▶ Increase student academic performance.
 - ▶ Create opportunities for students to have a voice in determining their own success and discipline outcomes.
 - ▶ Provide a framework to address harms that impact relationships in the school community, and establish procedures and norms for members to take accountability for harms through dialogue, consequence, amends, and reintegration.

What Are the Benefits of Restorative Justice in Schools?

Relationships, Respect, Responsibility, Repair, Reintegration

THE 5 R’S OF RESTORATIVE JUSTICE



Restorative Practices in School May Include:

- Affective statements
- Collaborative classroom norms and agreements
- Community building circles
- Restorative conversations
- Support and responsive circles
- Re-entry circles
- Truancy circles

Using Restorative Questions

Restorative questions encourage empathy, accountability, expression of feelings and thoughts, and problem solving. Restorative questions are also answered by those who were impacted by the incident, to help them process their feelings and determine what they need to make things right.

For the person who caused harm:

- What happened?
- What were you thinking about at the time?
- What have you thought about since?
- Who has been affected by what you have done? In what way?
- What do you think needs to happen to make things right?

For the person who experienced harm:

- What happened?
- What did you think when you realized what had happened?
- What impact has this incident had on you and others?
- What has been the hardest thing for you?
- What do you think needs to happen to make things right?

How Do I Find Information and Support Restorative Practices in My School?

- Speak to the Dean, RJ Coordinator, Social Worker, School Counselor, and Student Support Team about the use of restorative practices in classrooms and throughout the school day.
- Review the school/student/parent handbook and Discipline Process/Interventions to determine how restorative practices are used in the school community responsively and proactively.

- Ask questions about restorative practices during parent school nights or other school events or any Family Engagement Activities.
- Incorporate restorative practices including community building circles, conflict resolution, and Social Emotional Learning opportunities into family events.

Where can I get more information about restorative justice in schools?

- www.restoratedc.org
- www.mindfulschools.org
- Restorative Justice: Resources for Schools | Edutopia
- <https://www.prodigygame.com/main-en/blog/restorative-practices-in-schools/>

We would like to thank the following organizations and schools for their support of the 2023 Family Engagement Pop-Up Series:

- Funded By: District of Columbia Office of the State Superintendent of Schools
- Hosted By: Roosevelt STAY Opportunity Academy, The Sojourner Truth School, The SEED School
- Facilitators: Restorative DC Team
- Special Thanks to our Family Engagement Resource Partners



For more information or to schedule an information session please contact us at:

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