

Why school-wide Restorative Justice?

School-wide, rather than incident-driven RJ practices "build culture and climate based on mutually agreed upon restorative values of respect, trust, inclusion, tolerance, understanding (and more) which, when applied consistently and with fidelity, can result in fewer incidents of harm overall" (Schiff, 2018, p. 125). Incident-driven RJ can feel disjointed and doesn't result in any community or relationship building.

What does this look like in practice?

- Restorative Talking Circles
- Social-Emotional Classes
- Victim Impact Panels
- Helping students take responsibility for their actions and determine an action plan for reparations
- Peer Mediations

8 Tips for implementation

- Assess Need
- Engage the School Community
- Hire a Restorative Justice Coordinator
- Begin Training
- School-Wide Implementation
- Institute Restorative Discipline
- Involve Students in Peer Restorative Practices
- Be sure to Evaluate

Restorative talking circles?

Done within a homeroom to build empathy and community (can also be done in response to a conflict). They start with a moment of mindfulness and a grounding in the shared guidelines. Students then "check-in" with each other before engaging in meaningful discussion about various issues.

Is there an example of a successful program?

The Alliance model has been used in a school where it was followed for eight years. This "model democratizes restorative approaches, as students assume the roles of practitioners" (Gonzalez et al., 2018, p. 210). This means that students are involved in the creation and dissemination of the program, which allows them even more ownership of their school community. Here, RJ practices are given as a part of the curriculum, but through "a multilevel system of primary, secondary, and tertiary interventions" (p. 209).

References

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