Restorative Practices

Restorative Practices are approaches and tools that help build positive relationships and strengthen school communities. They focus on inclusion, respect, and accountability instead of punishment.

Restorative practices fit naturally into classroom routines. Over time, they can improve attendance, increase graduation rates, and create a supportive environment.

These practices support a sense of belonging and help repair harm when needed. The goal is to create a caring, supportive culture for everyone.

Circles are at the heart of restorative practices. In a circle, everyone can share and listen without interruption. This process builds trust and supports each person's well-being. The circle process helps resolve conflict and hold individuals accountable.

Social and Emotional Learning

Restorative practices align with the five core skills of social and emotional learning:

- Self-awareness
- Self-management
- Social awareness
- Relationship skills
- Responsible decision-making

How do schools use Restorative Practices?

Schools use different tools to build community and address conflict.

School staff are trained to use tools like restorative practice circles, mediation, and restorative responses.

Mediations and conflict circles happen in partnership with the Campbell Law Restorative Justice Clinic.

Skip To Main Content

Why use restorative practices?

Restorative practices:

- Build healthy relationships and student connection
- Reduce and prevent harmful behavior
- Give everyone a voice
- Help students take responsibility
- Address unfair discipline practices

Traditional zero-tolerance policies do not always make schools safer. They can lead to disengagement and a negative school climate.

Additional Parent Resources

WCPSS Email/Phone Alerts via SchoolMessenger (https://www.wcpss.net/parent-resources/~board/family-resources/post/schoolmessenger-instant-alerts-that-matter)

Read More (https://www.wcpss.net/parent-resources/~board/family-resources/post/schoolmessenger-instant-alerts-that-matter)

Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Resources (https://www.wcpss.net/parent-

resources/~board/family-resources/post/domestic-violence-and-sexual-assault-resources)

Read More (https://www.wcpss.net/parent-resources/~board/family-resources/post/domestic-violence-and-sexual-assault-resources)

Substance Abuse Resources (https://www.wcpss.net/parent-resources/~board/family-resources/post/substance-abuse-resources)

Read More (https://www.wcpss.net/parent-resources/~board/family-resources/post/substance-abuse-resources)

Behavioral and Mental Health Resources (https://www.wcpss.net/parent-resources/~board/family-resources/post/behavioral-andmental-health-resources)

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