

9 Key Restorative Justice Practices

School-wide Practice:

- 1) **Using Affective Statements-**improves students' emotional literacy, which further improve their communication, social skills, written work, and reading. and reading. Students gain a greater understanding of emotions and the feelings of others.

I feel _____, when _____ (*the occurrence*).

I feel _____, when _____ (*the occurrence*) because _____ (*the reason*).

- 2) **Asking Restorative Questions-** involves exploring what prompted the harm caused and then looking for ways to repair the harm done. For example:

- *"What happened?"*
- *"What were you thinking at the time of the incident?"*
- *"What have you thought about since?"*
- *"Who has been affected by what happened and how?"*
- *"What about this has been the hardest for you?"*
- *"What do you think needs to be done to make things as right as possible?"*

3) Using Restorative Language- helps when conversations are difficult and people have different points of view. Restorative language promotes speaking and listening skills and encourages open dialogue.

Selective Practice:

4) Community Building Circles-create the opportunity for building student-to-student connections and teacher-to-student connections. This strengthens the bond of interrelatedness, fostering a sense of belonging and developing empathy, resulting in: increased cooperation in the classroom, reduced behavior issues, and increased academic motivation.

5) Repair the Harm Circles-participation in the practice must be voluntary and the person who did the harm must accept responsibility for his/her actions. Such restorative practices act as an alternative to traditional discipline and helping to restore, rebuild and strengthen damaged relationships. . The circles are led by facilitators who oversee and guide the process, balancing concern for all the parties involved. They allow an opportunity for participants to explore facts, feelings and resolutions. Participants are encouraged to tell their stories, ask questions, express their feelings and work toward mutually acceptable outcomes.

Targeted:

6) Restorative Conferences-May be an in formal or a more formal conference between a staff member and a student to work with behavior challenges in a restorative way, using affective statements, restorative questions and other restorative approaches.

7) Restorative Staff Community-all members of the staff community receive the same training in the principles of Restorative Justice, develop shared values and make school-wide commitments to honor, display and model those values.

8) Restorative Practices with Parents-engage parents and all school stakeholders and understanding what Restorative Justice practices are and how they promote a positive school climate. Discuss and provide parents and community stakeholders with copies of related discipline foundation policy SWPBIS attachments from BUL 6231.0 (A, B, C, G, H).

Targeted:

9) Re-entry Circles-includes the harmed and the harmer following suspension, truancy, explosion or incarceration with the purpose of reducing isolation, increasing safety and creating a sense of belonging.