

School-Based Restorative Practices Video Series
Introduction to Restorative Justice in Schools
Video Session Guide

Community Building	All Grades	School Climate and Culture
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Session Focus	Understand the key components necessary to implement restorative practices and transform school climate and culture.
Facilitators	Familiarity with restorative processes and restorative practices implementation.

AGENDA

I. Getting Started	II. View Video	III. Video Discussion	IV. Planning Resource
5 Minutes <i>Reflect on the factors needed to transform culture within a school community.</i>	10 Minutes <i>Understand key elements of proactive and responsive restorative practices.</i>	10 Minutes <i>Discuss role of leadership and staff in the implementation process of restorative practices.</i>	10 Minutes <i>Review School Readiness Assessment Tool to reflect on your school's readiness for implementation of restorative practices.</i>

MATERIALS

Video	Planning Resources
Facilitators and participants can access the <i>Restorative DC Circles Video</i> here: <u>Introduction to Restorative Justice in Schools</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Restorative Whole School Approach and Assessment</i> • <i>Restorative DC School Readiness Assessment Tool</i>

CONTEXT

Video Context	This video provides an introduction to the implementation of restorative justice in DC Public and Charter schools and includes reflections from staff utilizing restorative practices in their school communities.
Key Points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementing and sustaining restorative practices is a multi-year process. • The participation and commitment from leadership, staff and students is imperative to the success of establishing a restorative school culture.

SESSION: Getting Started (5 Minutes)

Opening Questions:

- What important elements or factors need to be in place to transform climate and culture within a school community?
 - What personnel, resources, values, etc. need to be in place for transformation to occur?

- What significant challenges and/or barriers must be overcome for transformation to take place within a school community?
 - How would you connect with early adopters and resisters to overcome the challenges and barriers?

Facilitator Note: *Encourage participants to consider key factors that need to be in place to create and sustain a transformation to a restorative school culture within their school community.*

Sample Response:

- **What important elements or factors need to be in place to transform climate and culture within a school community?**
 - *Important elements that need to be in place to transform climate and culture within a school community include supportive leadership, staff willing to take a risk on a new way of engaging with students and each other, and training for everyone involved in the transition.*
- **What significant challenges and/or barriers must be overcome for transformation to take place within a school community?**
 - *One significant challenge and barrier to overcome in the transformation of a school culture is the 'buy in' or acceptance of a new program or practice that may be difficult for staff, students and families to accept.*

VIEW VIDEO (10 Minutes)

Restorative Practices Connection and Framing: *This video provides an introduction to the implementation of restorative justice in DC Public and Charter schools and includes reflections from staff utilizing restorative practices in their school communities.*

Guiding Questions: **As you watch the Introduction video consider the following questions:**

- What proactive restorative practices are identified in the video? How are these practices implemented by school staff?
- What responsive restorative practices are identified in the video? How are these practices implemented by school staff?
- In your view, what are the key differences between proactive and responsive restorative practices, and when should each be used?

VIDEO DISCUSSION (10 Minutes)

Reflection Questions:

- How could restorative practices support relationship building, routines and resilience in your school community?
- What steps would you need to take in order to implement restorative practices in your school community?

Sample Responses:

- **How could restorative practices support relationship building, routines and resilience in your school community?**
 - *Restorative community building circles provide a daily or weekly opportunity for students and staff to check in, create connections and strengthen relationships. Circles conducted consistently create a routine that students and*



staff may come to rely upon as an opportunity to engage and depend on when difficult issues arise in the class or school community.

- **What steps would you need to take in order to implement restorative practices in your school community?**
 - *Demonstration, training and coaching may be necessary implement restorative practices from the school community.*

Planning Resource (10 Minutes)

Implementation Assessment: *Ask participants (in groups or individually) to review the **Restorative Whole School Approach and Assessment** and use the attached **School Readiness Assessment Tool** to reflect on your school's readiness for implementation of restorative practices.*

- *Using the Assessment Tool, ask participants to identify school climate issues that take up most of the school staff's time and energy.*
- *Ask participants to continue working through the Assessment Tool to determine professional development needs, resources, and staffing necessary to implement restorative practices in their school communities.*

Going Deeper

The following are additional resources to deepen your understanding of the Whole School Restorative Implementation process:

- *[The Little Book of Restorative Justice](#) by Howard Zehr*
- *[The Little Book of Restorative Justice in Education: Fostering Responsibility, Healing and Hope in Schools](#) by Katherine Evans and Dorothy Vaandering*
- *[The Little Book of Restorative Discipline for Schools: Teaching Responsibility and Creating Caring Climates](#) by Lorraine Stutzman Amstutz and Judy H. Mullet*
- *[Circle Forward: Building a Restorative School Community](#) by Carolyn Boyes-Watson & Kay Pranis*