

# RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

## 5 R's — Restorative Justice Values and Principles

### RESPECT

It is an essential value that the restorative process is conducted in a way that is respectful of all persons who participate.

### RELATIONSHIP

Relationships are damaged when there are serious and/or repeated school rule violations. Restorative justice works to increase everyone's understanding of each other and find ways to restore & strengthen relationships among all parties involved.

### RESPONSIBILITY

The restorative principle of responsibility requires that when someone has harmed another, even if they did not intend the harm, they need to take responsibility for their actions.

### REPAIR

A central feature of restorative justice is that the participants decide together what harm has occurred and what needs to be done to repair it, and who is responsible for that repair. The person who caused harm agrees to take direction to repair the harm. Agreements are made.

### REINTEGRATION

When agreements are completed, it is time for past hurts to be set aside and people are brought back into right relationship with each other. For this reason, it is important to give careful attention to what is included in agreements.

## Restorative Justice FACTS

- Participation in restorative justice is **always voluntary** for all parties.
- Restorative justice **gives voice** to all parties involved.
- Restorative justice enhances **empathy** and **responsibility**.
- Restorative justice focuses on the harm that has been done and what needs to happen to **repair harm**.
- Restorative justice is based in methods used by ancient people to **solve problems** and **re-establish healthy relationships**.

## PRIVACY NOTICE

DUE TO THE SENSITIVE AND PERSONAL NATURE OF THE INFORMATION DISCUSSED DURING A RESTORATIVE ALTERNATIVE TO EXPULSION PROCESS, ALL PARTICIPANTS ARE ASKED TO SIGN A CONFIDENTIALITY AGREEMENT.

## CONTACT PERSONS

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### Teaching Peace

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# Restorative Alternative To Expulsion

An alternative for students, families, school staff and community when expulsion is not required by state law.

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE PROCESSES ARE GUIDED BY PRINCIPLES AND VALUES. THE RESTORATIVE ALTERNATIVE TO EXPULSION IS BASED ON TEACHING PEACE'S 5 R'S.

Community partners working together:



# RESTORATIVE ALTERNATIVE TO EXPULSION

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STUDENTS,  
FAMILIES,  
SCHOOL  
STAFF, AND  
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OF THE  
RESTORATIVE  
ALTERNATIVE  
TO  
EXPULSION

## An OPPORTUNITY to:

- *Create a new success plan and additional support for the student who is facing expulsion;*
- *Increase understanding of the situation from everyone's perspective;*
- *Express everyone's concerns and explore solutions together;*
- *Keep students in school by finding workable solutions to school challenges;*
- *Engage the community to support school success for every student.*

## What is Expected of Those Who PARTICIPATE in Restorative Alternative to Expulsion?

### RESTORATIVE CIRCLE

- Everyone takes responsibility for their part of the problem.
- Everyone agrees to tell the truth and listen for understanding.
- Everyone treats all participants with respect.
- Everyone comes with an open mind and seeks creative solutions.

## When Expulsion Is Not Required by State Law RESTORATIVE ALTERNATIVE TO EXPULSION Brings Together:

- A student who is at-risk of district expulsion
- That student's support people, family members and friends who can help
- School officials and other members of the school community
- Community members who can represent the harm to the community and bring an unbiased view to the process
- Trained restorative justice facilitators to conduct the process bringing the collective wisdom of this group to create a success plan for this student and produce a written agreement

## STEPS in the Process

- 1 The District Expulsion Officer requests that a student be considered for Restorative Alternative to Expulsion.
- 2 The case is assessed to determine if the student meets the program eligibility requirements, primarily acceptance of responsibility for his/her behavior.
- 3 The student and his or her parents or guardians are contacted, and they decide if they wish to voluntarily participate in the restorative process.
- 4 If they wish to participate, referral is made to Teaching Peace who will then contact all parties and establish a meeting date and time for the restorative circle process.
- 5 Prior to the meeting time, the restorative justice facilitator(s) will speak with all participants to explain the process, prepare them for participation and answer any questions.
- 6 The facilitators conduct the process, and, if successful, it will result in a written agreement that will be monitored until the Reintegration Circle date. In the event that the restorative circle cannot reach agreement or if the student fails to comply with the agreement, regular expulsion proceedings will be initiated.
- 7 A Reintegration Circle is held to assess the student's progress and determine if additional steps are needed or if the student is successfully reintegrated into the school.

## The Written AGREEMENT:

- Identifies specific and measurable actions that the student, and perhaps others, agree to complete to repair relationships that have been damaged and move to school success for the student;
- Spells out items intended to increase the student's school success that everyone agrees should be included;
- Is signed by all parties and is a binding agreement that cannot be altered by any party without everyone's approval;
- Includes a date for a Reintegration Circle to assess the student's progress.