

Restorative Practice and Education



Rather than being just an alternative form of school discipline, creating successful restorative practices in schools requires a holistic and thoughtful reframing of our approach to schooling altogether.

Visit our website for more info about the South Carolina Restorative Justice Initiative: www.scrji.org
Follow us on social media: @scrjinitiative

Terminology
Restorative justice responds to specific harm or wrongdoing.
Restorative practice is ongoing and not limited to the sole purpose of repairing harm.

Why implement restorative practices in schools?

Implementing and teaching restorative practice in schools can:

- **Build community:** Regular restorative practice supports the development of strong community and social bonds.
- **Improve conflict resolution:** Students are empowered to have agency and responsibility within their school environment and are being equipped with a framework for effective and safe conflict resolution.
- **Create a safer and healthier school environment:** Having access to these alternative means of addressing interpersonal problems reduces reliance upon the police and criminal system as purveyors of school discipline.

More than school discipline

Beyond merely offering an alternative approach to school discipline, engaging in routine restorative practices at school is beneficial to students' overall well-being.

Studies have demonstrated that implementing restorative practices in schools can:

- Lower students' risk of suspension
- Strengthen students' social and emotional skills
- Improve students' mental health
- Improve students' academic performance

Links for further reading:

- [Building Foundations of Health and Wellbeing in School: A Study of Restorative Practices and Girls of Color](#)
- [New Directions in whole-school restorative justice implementation](#)
- [Restorative Justice in U.S. Schools: An Updated Research Review](#)