

Restorative Practices, Part 1 & 2

In this two-part episode, you will hear about how the Genesee Intermediate School District (GISD), which is located in Genesee County, Michigan, developed a comprehensive school safety program that introduced restorative practices in many of its schools. In [Part 1](#), our guests discuss how the program was implemented as part of a 2015 grant from the U.S. Department of Justice's Comprehensive School Safety Initiative. In [Part 2](#), guests address getting buy-in for this program, sustaining it over time, and coordinating with school resource officers.

Guests: James Yake, Chris Melde, Brooke Albert, Karen Shall, Sarah Mulkey, Mike Rexin, Dan Baldermann, Angela Hairston, Tamara Smeltzer



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Learning Outcomes

- » Explain how restorative practices were implemented at GISD.
- » Differentiate between practices that are used in prevention, intervention, and after an incident has occurred.
- » Summarize how GISD staff collaborated to achieve the goals of their comprehensive school safety grant project.

Key Takeaways

- ✓ Restorative practices are a set of strategies schools can use to reduce exclusionary discipline, such as suspensions and expulsions.
- ✓ For GISD staff, getting buy-in from teachers for implementing restorative practices was key. School resource officers were heavily involved in the restorative circles and were especially supportive of students, teachers, and staff throughout the grant project.
- ✓ There are many kinds of restorative practices, but the three that are discussed include **restorative circles** (a preventive measure to open up communication between students, teachers, and staff), **conferences** (an intervention after a conflict has occurred), and **re-entry circles** (which can be used after a student has been away from school for some time).

Additional Resources

[Operationalizing Evidence-Based School Safety Programs](#) (on-demand webinar)

[Engaging Stakeholders in School Safety Planning](#) (on-demand webinar)

[Sustaining School Safety Programs](#) (on-demand webinar)

[Restorative Virtual Circles](#) (video)

Questions for Discussion

- » How do/did you create staff buy-in for a new/existing school safety program?
- » What opportunities exist for staff and teachers to collaborate on school safety initiatives?
- » How can you integrate school safety programs in the classroom? In what ways can students be actively involved?

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