

FAQs

Is this process confidential?

Yes, confidentiality is respected from the time of the referral through the conference. We speak with each party involved about confidentiality and when everyone is brought together a confidentiality agreement is signed by each participant.

Will my son/daughter's suspension be reduced or removed?

Restorative Practices is a positive alternative to discipline. School Administrators have the option to use RP in lieu of suspension days, to reduce the number of suspension days or for a reentry after a student has been suspended. It is up to your school administrator how discipline is implemented.

Who else at the school will know about this conference?

Only the parties involved in the process will be a part of the conference. Your Restorative Practices facilitator will let you know all the people attending the conference ahead of time.

I would like my child to be involved in Restorative Practices, but I do not want to be involved. Can the conference still go forward?

It is a possibility, but these decisions are made on a case-by-case basis. Ultimately, we want to ensure that there is equality at the table and each person feels supported.

Does the agreement that the students come up with have to be approved by the administration? The agreement is specific to what the students have done to repair harm or move forward and/or what they plan to do. Administrators, parents, and students are a part of the process in coming up with an agreement. The agreement is driven by what the students agree to follow-through with in regards to repairing harm or moving forward.

I cannot make it to school for a pre-conference. Can we pre-conference over the phone?

It is a possibility. We prefer to meet with each person participating face to face, but we understand that situations arise where we need to be flexible. If you are participating in the conference though, it is required that you are present.

Who will have access to the information?

Only the people at the conference will have access to the information. If a participant would like someone outside the conference to have a copy of the agreement (i.e., the student's school counselor because they are mentioned in the agreement), it will be discussed at the conference so that everyone is in agreement.

How long does each step of the process take?

Overall, from receiving the referral to finishing the conference, about two weeks. That being said, the amount of flexibility people offer with scheduling meeting times has an impact on how fast the process goes. A pre-conference usually takes 30-45 minutes. We go over the process and give each person an opportunity to answer the restorative questions that guide the discussion. The conference takes anywhere from one to two hours depending on the amount of people involved. In this process we go over confidentiality, the expectations for our meeting, and write up an agreement.

Who can use Restorative Practices?

Restorative practices are rooted in the principal that everyone has the capacity to build relationships and resolve conflict restoratively with training, practice, support, and time. Therefore, anyone can benefit from learning about restorative practices. Restorative practices are non-denominational and inclusive of all cultures, abilities, ages, ethnicities, gender identity, and religions.