Restorative Practices: An Overview

“Restorative justice” focuses on repairing relationships, encouraging the acceptance of responsibility, and teaching individuals to make better decisions through reflection and conversation with stakeholders. “Restorative practice” responds to an individual and that individual’s specific behavior in an attempt to bring her or him back into the community.

Restorative Questions: The basic elements of restorative practices.

1. What happened?
2. What were you thinking about at the time?
3. What have you thought about since?
4. Who was affected by what you did?
5. What are you willing to do to make things better?

Restorative Practices Continuum

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<th>Informal</th>
<th>Formal</th>
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<tr>
<td>Affective statements</td>
<td>Affective questions</td>
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(Costello, et al., p. 12)

Restorative Interviews: Use with individual students.

Begin with the basic questions (see above), and then create a plan to address or discourage the behavior in the future. Collaboration and buy-in from the student is crucial to support the student’s effort to improve.

Restorative Circles: Use with classes or other groups of students.

Two concerns:
1. What harm was caused?
2. What needs to happen to make things right?
Selected Resources


---*Thorough introduction to the field with clear instructions on how to implement restorative practices.*


---*Source for professional development opportunities, some of them free!*


---*Quick answers to questions about restorative justice generally and access to other resources.*


Contact: Barbara.blazej@umit.maine.edu.

---*Local conferences, training sessions, and other resources. Barbara is a longtime advocate for and expert in restorative practices.*

A much more complete list of resources, provided by the Restorative Practices Collaborative of Maine, is attached.
Resources on Restorative School Practices

All of these books are available at Amazon.com. The videos are available from the International Institute for Restorative Practices, www.iirp.edu. Some helpful organizations are listed at the end.

**BOOKS**


Bailey, Becky. *Conscious Discipline: Seven Basic Skills for Brain Smart Classroom Management.* (Loving Guidance, Inc., 2001)


Holtham, J. *Taking Restorative Justice to Schools: A Doorway to Discipline.* (Homestead Press, 2009)

Hopkins, Belinda. *Just Care: Restorative Justice Approaches to Working with Children in Public Care.* (Jessica Kingsley Publishers, 2009)


**VIDEOS**


Building Our Community: A Film about Restorative Practices. (IIRP, 2008)

Burning Bridges. (IIRP/realJustice, 2007)

Introduction to Conferencing. (IIRP/realJustice, 2004)

4 School Conferences: A Composite View. (IIRP/realJustice, 2008)
Restorative Practices Collaborative of Maine is a coalition of trainers and facilitators who assist and support Maine educators and schools throughout the state in implementing restorative practices and restorative discipline. We offer consultations and on-site trainings, as well as statewide conferences, institutes and workshops in the restorative approach, sponsored by the University of Maine Peace & Reconciliation Studies Program. Contact Barb Blazej for more information: 207-356-2163 or Barbara.blazej@umit.maine.edu.

Restorative Justice Institute of Maine, Augusta, ME. rjmaine.org. This statewide organization envisions widespread cultural and systemic change in how Mainers approach wrongdoing. Working collaboratively with local communities, state agencies, law enforcement and school systems, the Institute intends to support local restorative justice projects, provide training and education in best practices, conduct research on effective models, and advocate for restorative justice at the state and local level.

Safe Schools for All, Bath, ME. www.safeschoolsforall.com. Provides training and consultation in all aspects of school climate and culture improvement including a detailed assessment of a school’s strengths and needs. Our consultant works with you to create an individualized plan suited to your school. Contact: Chuck Saufler, csaufler@safeschoolsforall.com, 207-751-4160.

International Institute for Restorative Practices, Bethlehem, PA. www.iirp.edu. The leading international professional organization that offers conferences, training, graduate program, resources, and an e-forum for the field of restorative practices in schools and restorative justice in many other settings.

Compiled by the Restorative Practices Collaborative of Maine
Helping to Create Safe, Fair & Responsive Maine Schools
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