



Youth Restoration Project

Cultivating Relationships, Restoring Community

Step One – Implementing Restorative Justice Practices in Schools

The Discovery Process:

Our protocol starts by examining the assets that could be developed and made more effective and visible to your staff. We look at obstacles and frictions. After some initial preparation, we'll spend two to five hours on site, talking about problems and resources with your school community. The goal is to understand how your school operates with a view to building a strong platform for creating, sustaining and encouraging your future Restorative Justice Practices (RJP) efforts.

What we take into consideration:

- We examine your school data before visit – see sample data template [here](#).
- We read your student handbook
- We work with you to tailor questions for our visit
- We ask you to schedule ahead of time:
 - Focus groups with students
 - Back-to-back interviews with teachers, staff, administrators (include nay-sayers)
- In our on-site discovery day, we'll also stroll hallways and have random conversations with kids and staff, considering:
 - Existing safety protocols
 - Restorative practices already in place, whatever you call them
 - Discipline protocols, including student re-engagement after being suspended or kicked out of class
 - Deployment of staff
 - Opportunities for shoring up existing systems with restorative practices
 - Adapting regularly scheduled meetings to assist in implementation
- Typical questions:
 - What are your primary goals?
 - How can we state the problems in terms of solutions?
 - At what level is your current staff buy-in?

This work results in a report of observations and recommendations.