

Restorative Practices include a set of strategies aimed to build community and a sense of belonging within the community. The School to Prison Pipeline describes how students who are removed from their school community (classroom or school) for low level infractions are eventually removed from their residential communities for higher level infractions. The premise is that students and residents who feel that they belong tend to give back and create a bond of reciprocity. Restorative Practices encourages the community to be a part of the discipline at the most local level. Circle processes encourage dialogue in community building circles, resolution circles, peace-keeping circles, healing circles, restorative conference circles, and reintegration circles. Circles can also be used in the classroom for prior learning assessment and evaluation as a type of end ticket. Classroom circles build community and can be the basis for bullying prevention. The key is in the questions. Students learn through the asking of affective questions that there are common aspirations and dreams. "Othering" is lessened when common ground is established. Student Restorative Panels can also be a tool in the school for handling school discipline. Students learn to take responsibility for their actions, learn ways to repair the harm done to their victim, learn ways to repair the harm done to their community, and learn ways not to re-offend. The process is victim-focused and is centered on relationships.

The Highmark Foundation recently published a white paper which researched current best practices that address bullying: <http://www.safeschools.info/content/BPRPWhitePaper2014.pdf> .

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