

11 Essential Elements of Restorative Practices



These are the essential elements, covered in the SaferSanerSchools™ program, necessary for successful whole-school implementation of restorative practices:

- 1 Affective Statements**
Personal expressions of feeling in response to specific behaviors.
- 2 Restorative Questions**
Questions that address inappropriate behavior in a way that places the responsibility for making things right and restoring relationships on those involved in the situation.
- 3 Small Impromptu Conferences**
Questioning exercises that quickly resolve lower-level incidents involving two or more people.
- 4 Proactive Circles**
Community-building or instructional meetings, with participants seated in a circle, often responding sequentially to a prompt from the facilitator.
- 5 Responsive Circles**
Meetings that respond to a concern or misbehavior, with participants seated in a circle, often responding sequentially to a prompt from the facilitator.
- 6 Restorative Conferences**
Structured meetings typically used in response to serious incidents or a cumulative pattern of less serious incidents, which focus on repairing the relational harm caused by misbehavior.
- 7 Fair Process**
A set of transparent decision-making practices designed to create open lines of communication, assure people that their feelings and ideas have been taken into account, and foster a healthy community.
- 8 Reintegrative Management of Shame**
A recognition that shame is a critical regulator of human social behavior.
- 9 Restorative Staff Community**
A staff that models and consistently uses restorative practices with each other to build and maintain healthy adult relationships.
- 10 Restorative Approach with Families**
An approach that values the contributions, knowledge, and expertise of family members.
- 11 Fundamental Hypothesis Understandings**
An understanding that human beings are the happiest, healthiest, and most likely to make positive changes in their behavior when those in authority do things with them rather than to them or for them.