

Questions for Families & Educators to Ask Advocating for High Quality Implementation

Have you seen any of these common challenges in your school's implementation of restorative practices? When discussing these challenges with leadership in your school community, be sure to ask the following questions.

Challenge: Restorative Practices Aren't Changing Overall School Culture

What to Ask

- What other programs and major initiatives (eg, No-Nonsense Nurturing or PBIS) are currently underway at your school? How do you ensure these programs contribute to a restorative culture?
- What happens when students are "in trouble"? How do you support students in meeting school-wide expectations? What spaces exist for educators to build relationships with each other?
- How do you support educators in prioritizing relationship-building with students in their classrooms and throughout the building?

Challenge: Loss of Funding for Restorative Practices

What to Ask

- How can you ensure that the role of the Restorative Practices Coordinator remains a priority for the school community?
- How can you ensure it withstands any budget constraints?

Challenge: Changes in School Leadership

What to Ask

- In this school community, who owns restorative practices? Is it something done by only one person or is it shared among multiple stakeholders?
- How can you ensure an initiative such as this one lasts beyond your tenure at the school?

Challenge: Loss of Belief in Restorative Practices

What to Ask

- New educators are onboarded to restorative practices through both intensive training and frequent feedback on their use of restorative practices.
- Returning educators continue to be trained each year in restorative practices and are provided feedback throughout the year.

Challenge: Families are Resisting Restorative Practices

What to Ask

- How have you involved families and students in the implementation of restorative practices?
- Are families given the opportunity to be trained in restorative practices?

Challenge: Restorative Practices are Only Being Used with Students

What to Ask

- Do adults willingly take responsibility for how their behavior contributes to student behavior?
- Are restorative practices used with the adults in this building, both to build relationships among staff and to repair harm?

Challenge: Disparities in Discipline Do Not Change

What to Ask

- What do racial disparities look like in this building? How are you using restorative practices to eliminate these?
- What is the suspension rate for students of color in the school? How does this compare to white students? Are restorative practices equally accessible to all students in this building? For example, how do you support students with special needs in accessing this type of intervention?
- How do you support educators in understanding and having conversations about how race factors into their interactions with students and families?