

Superintendent's Diversity Advisory Committee (S-DAC)
February 24, 2017

Input from Instructional Team to Proposed Language of Restorative Justice

The instructional leadership team, comprised of school-based leader and district-level leaders, provided thoughtful input to the document.

The following paragraphs are being considered to the following Board Policies: 3207 (HIB); 3210 (Nondiscrimination) and 3241 (Student Discipline)

Restorative Justice provides an opportunity for a student to learn empathy through accountability and the act of apology.

~~As Prior to the imposition of discipline and an alternative as a substitute~~ for discipline following an investigation, a school principal or designee may request that a trained staff member or counselor (e.g., Mercer Island Youth and Family Services staff) facilitate a meeting in the form of a restorative justice conference with an alleged author of the action aggressor and petitioner victim along with their parents as appropriate. As a learning institution, ~~the District we~~ believes that a restorative justice conference permits students to acknowledge their mistakes, grow emotionally from such experiences and move on without the stigmatizing labels that often follow such behaviors.

The intent of the conference is to allow the student who caused harm to learn the following: how his/her behavior affected others; apologize; and consider alternative methods ways to repair the unresolved broken student-to-student relationship. Such methods may include levels or tiers of interventions and include community service as recommended by the petitioner and/or parents.

In addition to the restorative justice conference as an alternative substitute for the imposition of student discipline, there may be some situations that will also require additional discipline (e.g., in and/or out-of school suspension). These situations are case specific and determined by the principal or designee.