

Diversity Advisory Committee

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Restorative Justice Policy Suggestion

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Students who cause direct or indirect harm to another through their wrongdoing most often have to face a disciplinary consequence at school. Often times when a bullying incident occurs it is required that the two parties need to be separated and interact with school staff respectively due to various privacy policies school has to abide by to protect the students and their families. Due to this privacy focused nature of the disciplinary process students who are aggressors may not get the opportunity to learn how their action truly impacted the community around them small and large, and apologize and become reintegrated into the community.

A restorative conference could be a fitting solution in this circumstance. By allowing aggressor, victim and their respective family members to gather for a conference that follows a specific protocol and is led by a trained mediator, the student who caused harm will learn how their behavior affected people around them, apologize and think about how to repair the damage. It is important to note that the goal of this conference is to create a safe forum for the parties to express their feelings without stigmatizing or shaming the aggressor. Stigmatizing or shaming a student who is an aggressor only increases the sense of isolation of the student from the school community and community at large. While this conference will hold the aggressor accountable for their action it will also provide them an opportunity to shed the label as a aggressor and be reintegrated into the school and our community.