



MAINE DEPARTMENT
OF EDUCATION

CREATING A CULTURE OF CARE IN SCHOOLS USING RESTORATIVE PRACTICES

Program Overview

Presented by: The Maine School Safety Center





Restorative Practices Behavioral Threat Assessment Management and MSSC's School Safety Specialist Program

Approach school safety, mental health and behavioral support from a preventative, public health perspective.

Safety starts with trusting relationships and a sense of belonging.

Restorative Practices support BTAM and other school safety initiatives in both Prevention and Response



Prevention

- **Building a sense of safety and community:**
 - **Students are more willing to trust adults with information.**
 - **People are less likely to harm communities where they feel a sense of belonging.**

Response

- **Harm repair conversations and circles for transient threats**
- **Re-entry circles for more substantive events**
- **Collaborate with local law enforcement and JCCO's when appropriate**
- **Timely and implemented by community members**

MSSC Restorative Practices History First Year

School Needs Assessment

- Dramatic increase in dysregulated and violent behavior with students of all ages, especially post COVID
- Lack of accountability and problem-solving skills from students
- Teacher reluctance to respond to behaviors in classrooms
- Administrator Burn-out
- High staff turnover
- Shockingly high suspension numbers – 14,644 in 2022
- 122 Schools requesting Training



Program Goals:

- Help schools prioritize safety and mattering as foundations of the school culture in an equitable and inclusive manner.
 - Reduce suspensions, expulsions and arrests at school.
 - Improve school attendance.
 - Increase graduation rates.
 - Help our students learn to be accountable for the choices they make and teach them how to repair harm to relationships and community.
- Help staff expand their toolbox to develop confidence for responding to unwanted behavior in the classroom in real time. This frees up administrators to focus on leadership and major behavior.
 - Improve collegial relationships and trust.
 - Make teaching fun again – reduce staff turnover.



Program Components:

- **Implementation Team Training**
 - In person – 20-24 Hours total
- **10 Asynchronous On-line Modules for All staff through EMCC**
- **On-going Coaching and Support for 1 year +**
- **Student informational video and jeopardy game**
- **Caregiver Information Night**
- **Code of Conduct Review**
- **Workbook for Staff and Implementation Team**
- **Access to webpage with additional resources**
- **Tier 3 Restorative Community Review Boards**

Other modules to be developed:

- **Caregiver Training in collaboration with DHHS**
- **Restorative response to vaping in collaboration with Maine CDC**
- **The role of nurses in a Restorative school**
- **SROs in a Restorative School**
- **Restorative Re-entry from detention or commitment with DOC**



Our Team:

- 8 Coaches
- Tier 3 Coordinator
- Assistant Program Manager
- Technical Assistant

CREATING A CULTURE OF CARE IN SCHOOLS

The Culture of Care training teaches participants the basic principles of restorative practices and the importance of building healthy relationships.

All School Staff will be trained in: (Tiers 1 & 2)

Introduction

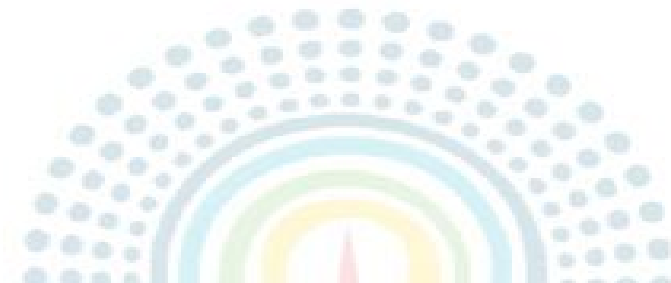
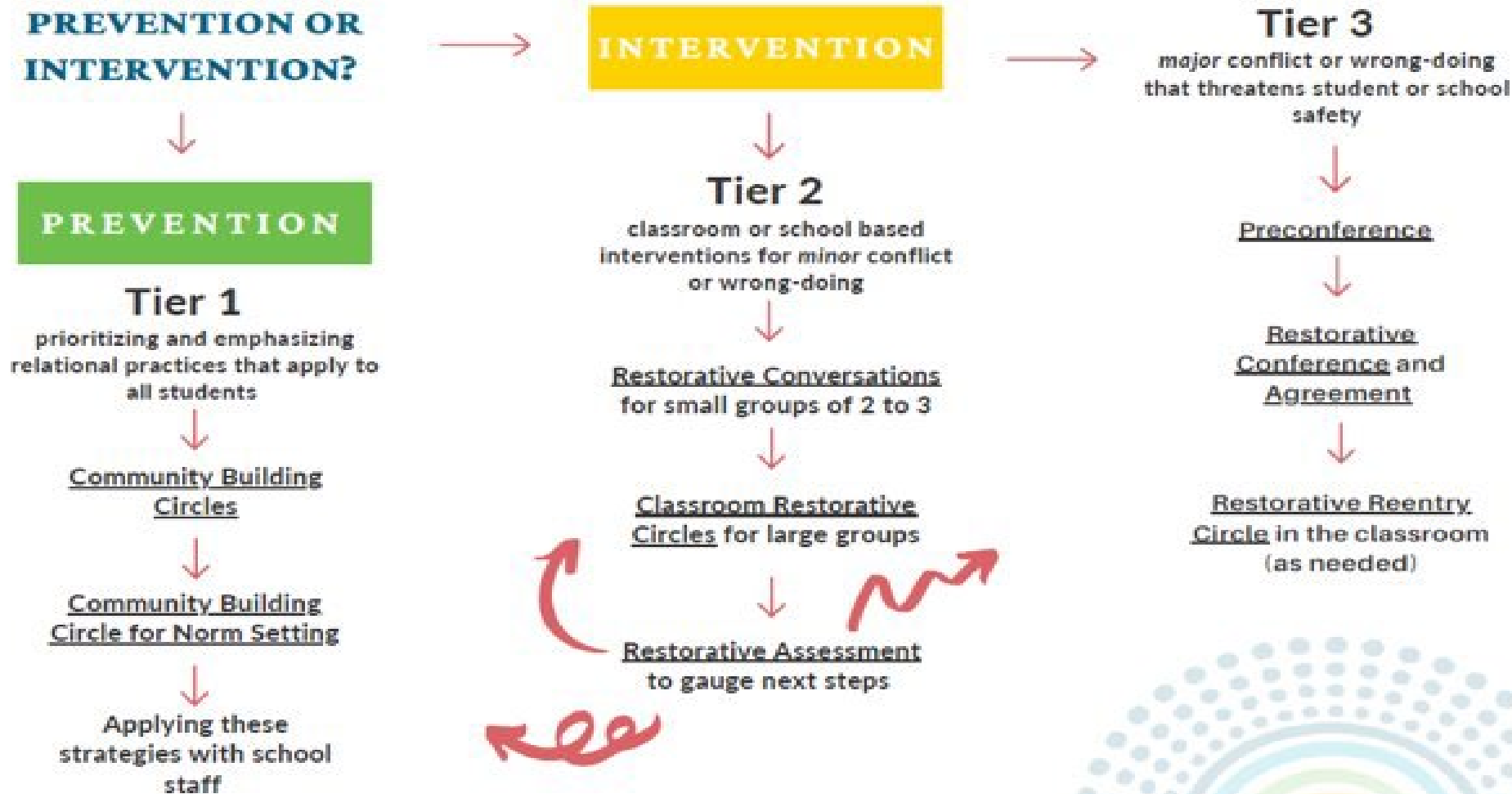
1. Basic Principles of RP
2. Relationships
3. Collegial Relationships
4. Student-Teacher Relationships
5. Community Building Circles
6. Community Norm Setting Circles
7. Restorative Conversations
8. Classroom Restorative Circles
9. De-escalation and Restorative Assessment

Implementation teams will also be trained in: (Tiers 3)

10. Restorative Pre-conference
11. Restorative Conference Dialogue & Agreements
12. Classroom Re-Entry circles
13. Blending Current Practices and identifying Community Resources
14. Stages of Implementation
15. Action Planning

Restorative Practices Flow Chart

FLOW OF RESTORATIVE PREVENTION AND INTERVENTIONS PRACTICES





- **Buckfield Jr/Sr High**
- **Crooked River Elementary**
- **Dunn Elementary**
- **Falmouth Elementary**
- **Falmouth Middle School**
- **Falmouth High School**
- **Gray New Gloucester Middle**
- **Hartford – Sumner Elementary**
- **Katahdin Elementary**
- **Katahdin Jr/Sr High**
- **Lawrence High School**
- **Lubec Elementary**
- **Maine Academy of Natural Sciences**
- **Oceanside High School**
- **Oceanside Middle School**
- **Oxford Hills Middle**
- **Oxford Hills High**
- **Songo Locks Elementary**
- **Stevensbrook Elementary**
- **Warsaw Elementary**
- **Westbrook High School**