



# Restorative Practices in Schools and Communities

## RP Online Educational Sessions 2020

June 15-16-17 and June 22-23-24, 9-11 am

[Registration is now open](#) for the Minnesota Department of Education School Climate Center Restorative Practices in Schools and Communities Online Educational Sessions this June. Restorative practices is an approach schools can use to improve school climate and repair harm.

Working with our community partners and the RP trainer community, MDE is offering two weeks of online sessions for both experienced practitioners and those first beginning their exploration of restorative practices. Rather than trying to replicate the experience of learning with people face to face, we are offering educational sessions online.

The fee for each three day, 2 hour session is \$75; nine CEU's and Administrative CEU's will be offered. For further information contact [Nancy Riestenberg](#), Minnesota Department of Education, 651-582-8433.

There are two kinds of offerings scheduled: building the restorative impulse and coaching sessions.

### Building the Restorative Impulse

These sessions are for people who wish to gain understanding of the mindset that is needed to support practices such as circle and repairing harm, or who wish to deepen their own restorative understanding. Participants will meet for three two-hour sessions online to explore relationships in our personal and professional lives through discussion and storytelling. These sessions will be grouped around the topics of the Restorative Impulse for both educators and administrators, Mindfulness and Self Care and Equity and the Restorative Impulse. A specific session for Indigenous educators is also offered: Sharing Culture—Indigenous Voices: for Dakota, Ojibwe and other American Indian Educators.

### Coaching Circles

These sessions are for people who have attended trainings in restorative practices and are applying their skills with adult and students in schools and community. Participants will meet for three two-hour sessions online. The three session series offers to participants both the experience of the trainers holding the space for the session, as well as the collective wisdom of the group.

## Building the Restorative Impulse Sessions

### *Restorative Impulse 1: exploring the restorative impulse for people new to RP*

Participants will explore relationship, building rapport and seeing the whole human in self and others. They will discuss who they are as people, their own values in relationship with others, and look again at how they can honor others whom they touch in their lives.

### *Restorative Impulse for Administrators*

A key driver for implementation is leadership. Administrators can explore with their peers how they can incorporate the spirit and the practices of building relationships and repairing harm with all members of the school community. Alignment of personal values, the values of the district and those that support restorative practices will be discussed.

### *Restorative Mindfulness and Self Care*

Mindfulness, meditation and energy practices to support navigating challenging situations and restoring calm with greater ease.

### *Equity and the Restorative Impulse*

In session, participants will build their capacity towards creating more equitable schools, including acknowledging past historical harms and disparities heightened by the pandemic. They will explore their own comfort and personal understanding of their power and privilege regarding the intersection of race, gender, sexual orientation and special educational needs.

### *Sharing Culture—Indigenous Voices: for Dakota, Ojibwe and other American Indian Educators*

This session is specifically for Dakota, Ojibwe and other American Indian educators, facilitated by Indigenous keepers. The session will provide opportunity for Indigenous educators to identify their unique cultural practices within restorative practices.

## Coaching Circles for RP Practitioners

### *Restorative Impulse 2: Deepening the restorative mindset for people with circle experience*

This session is for people with experience with the circle process and who want to invest in building their self-awareness as a circle keeper. The participants will discuss group awareness, the dynamics of verbal and non-verbal communication and how power manifests itself within the circle process. Participant will share their knowledge, circle resources and ideas with each other.

### *Whole School Design/Conversations with the Cloquet Area Alternative Education Program (CAAEP)*

The Cloquet Area Alternative Education Program (CAAEP) is in their fourth year of whole school restorative practices. This session will review the critical management steps necessary to reach any district's restorative goals. Participants will review steps for basic project management, visioning, strategic planning, needs assessment and evaluation.

### *Breaking Barriers - Supporting Students through Trauma Informed Practices*

Participants will share their understanding of trauma and toxic stress, and how this impacts' behavior. Strategies and steps that schools/individuals can take towards creating an inclusive trauma-informed learning environment will be discussed.

### *Using Circle with Students with Special Needs Coaching*

Participants will share questions and ideas about how to help students with a variety of special needs participate in the community building circle as well as a repair of harm circle. Supporting other adults who work with students with special needs will be discussed.

### *Circle to Repair Harm Coaching: Sharing Our Practice, Learning From Our Mistakes*

Keepers will share stories of restorative practices that help support repairing harm, working with and inviting adults to the process, and share the joys and challenges of pre-meetings, face to face and follow-up circles.

### *Conferencing to Repair Harm Coaching: Improving Practice*

Participants will discuss successes and challenges in setting up and completing repair of harm conferences. Ideas for carving out time for pre-meetings, the conference and agreement completion practices will be shared. Exploring their own mindset and biases will help strengthen facilitation skills.

### *Coaching for Restorative Chats*

Participants will explore their own mindset for working with adults and students. They will reflect on how they listen and how they share who they are as people with their students and peers. They will discuss what has worked and what has been a challenge in using restorative language in school, including the restorative questions.

### *Family Group Conferencing Coaching*

The Legal Rights Center's Family Group Conferencing provides a framework addressing significant behavioral concerns with students and family. Share with others the challenges and successes of working with family, student and community partners to help restore the learning relationships between students and school, family and school, and student and family.

### *Implementation: Growing the Restorative Impulse in Schools for People with Circle Experience*

Implementation of restorative practices is a journey of discovery. Participants will explore their first steps, miss-steps and next steps in bringing restorative practices as a way of being to the school. Helping adults build their restorative muscles will be discussed, including keeping relationship connections online.

### *Coaching the Elementary Circle Keeper*

This session will focus on how teachers have introduced and used the circle process with elementary students including online. Ways of using the process to teach academic subjects and to build school climate activities will be shared, as well as addressing classroom disruptions. Participants will explore what they learned when they made mistakes and what they might repeat when the class was smooth.

### *Coaching the Secondary Circle Keeper*

This session will focus on how teachers have introduced and used the circle process with secondary students in person and online. Ways of using the process to teach academic subjects, as well as developing youth leadership practices will be shared, and addressing classroom disruptions in the moment. Participants will share mistakes and surprise successes.

## **Goals of the RP Online Sessions**

Restorative practices are drawn from the traditions of Indigenous people and communities of color around the world. They are grounded in a common knowledge that people are profoundly relational, interconnected, and inherently good. Restorative practices include ways of creating community that honor the importance of relationships among all members in the community. And, when harm has been caused, restorative practices also provide ways to repair relationships and to address the needs of all people impacted by the harm.

This time of physical distancing offers us a unique perspective on relationship, harm and the on-going efforts to create safe and equitable learning environments. Circle, restorative practices and equity learning is continuous. Our current restrictions challenge us to grow ourselves in new ways.

The goals of the RP Online Sessions are to help:

- Strengthen the restorative impulse in participants as they develop a restorative mindset.
- Proactively define or re-define equity through restorative practices.
- Strengthen the knowledge and understanding of restorative school practitioners.
- Strengthen the networks of support for restorative practices in schools and community.

### **Who Should Attend?**

The educational sessions are open to everyone—community members, parents and family members, school administrators, school board members, teachers, educational aides, school resource officers, school facilities staff members, student support staff members, out of school time staff, youth workers, school volunteers, family members and community partners.

### **Registration and Reasonable Accommodations**

If you have questions about:

Which training is right for you, please contact Nancy Riestenberg, 651-582-8433.

In the Cloquet/Duluth/Iron Range area, you can also contact Laraine Mickelson, 218-390-1707.

In the Bemidji area, you can also contact Barb Houg, 218-444-8048 or 218-766-0645.

Contact Nancy Riestenberg, 651-582-8433, to request a reasonable accommodation to participate in this event. Note: We require a two-week advance notice in order to provide the requested accommodation and ask for a 48-hour notice to cancel the request.