

# RESTORATIVE JUSTICE IN SCHOOLS

## AN ALTERNATIVE TO EXCLUSION

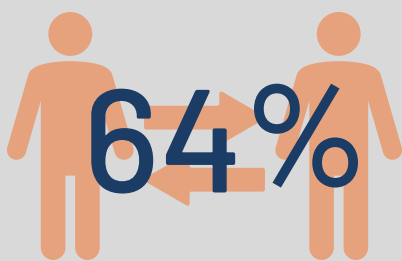
87%

Conflict is bound to arise between adolescents, but exclusion is NOT the only answer. Schools with Restorative Justice (RJ) programs have seen up to a 87% reduction in suspensions and expulsions have been entirely eliminated on some campuses.



## GIVING STUDENTS A VOICE

Practices such as "harm" or "healing" circles give students a chance to explore their behavior from the perspective of the victim and offender. With peer mediation and leadership position, students have the opportunity to lead in their school community and foster an environment of accountability.



64%

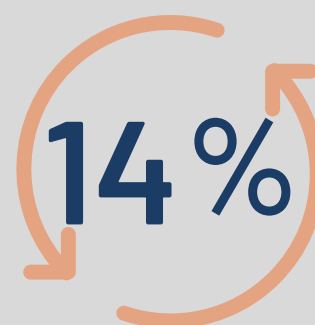
## FOSTERING COMMUNITY

Restorative Justice aims to shift the focus from blame and punishment to prevention through community building and nurturing relationships. In Oakland Unified School District, 64% of teachers believed RJ helped them to build caring relationships with their students.



## POSITIVE SCHOOL CLIMATES PROMOTE SAFETY

In an experimental study of Pittsburgh schools using RJ, 69% of teachers reported a positive impact on school climate, which many attributed to increases in safety. In addition, West Philadelphia High School reported a 92% drop in "violent acts and serious incidents" in the first year and a half.



14%

## DISRUPTING THE CYCLE

After the first year of the Philadelphia School Districts' RJ program, Juniata Park Academy reported that only 14% of students were involved with a repeat offense, and all of those students were identified as needing emotional support through Special Education.

Source: <https://www.philasd.org/schoolclimate/programs-services/relationshipsfirst/>

LEARN MORE ABOUT SOLUTIONS IN LANCASTER AT  
[HTTPS://ADVOZ.ORG/ABOUT-US/MISSION/](https://advoz.org/about-us/mission/)

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE IN ACTION

[HTTPS://WWW.NPR.ORG/2014/12/17/371483112/RESTORATIVE-JUSTICE-A-NEW-APPROACH-TO-DISCIPLINE-AT-SCHOOL](https://www.npr.org/2014/12/17/371483112/restorative-justice-a-new-approach-to-discipline-at-school)

[HTTPS://WWW.PHILASD.ORG/SCHOOLCLIMATE/PROGRAMS-SERVICES/RELATIONSHIPSFIRST/](https://www.philasd.org/schoolclimate/programs-services/relationshipsfirst/)

# RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

## HOW CAN YOU GET INVOLVED IN LANCASTER?

### ADVOZ MEDIATION & RESTORATIVE PRACTICES

Advoz is a Lancaster-based, community-minded organization whose mission is to "transform conflict and build community through face-to-face dialogue programs".



### TRAINING, MEDIATION, & RESTORATION

Restorative Justice addresses harm with all parties involved. Mediation works with those in conflict before it escalates. Training equips people and organizations to handle conflict themselves.

### TEACHER TRAINING

Advoz offers training courses for teachers, administrators, and professionals to teach conflict resolution and to build a restorative and inclusive community in their school and workplace.

### BECOME A FACILITATOR

Want to get involved with mediation and restorative justice directly? Become a volunteer by first taking Advoz© course in Conflict, Community, & Culture at [www.advoz.org/training](http://www.advoz.org/training) (link in description)



### BEYOND SCHOOLS

Restorative Justice has applications beyond schools, and Advoz aims to enable our community to handle conflict, violence, and crime through constructive dialogue. Advoz promotes accountability, support, and empowerment to community members (including those harmed and those harming) to restore relationships, find meaningful resolution, and build a safer, more inclusive community.