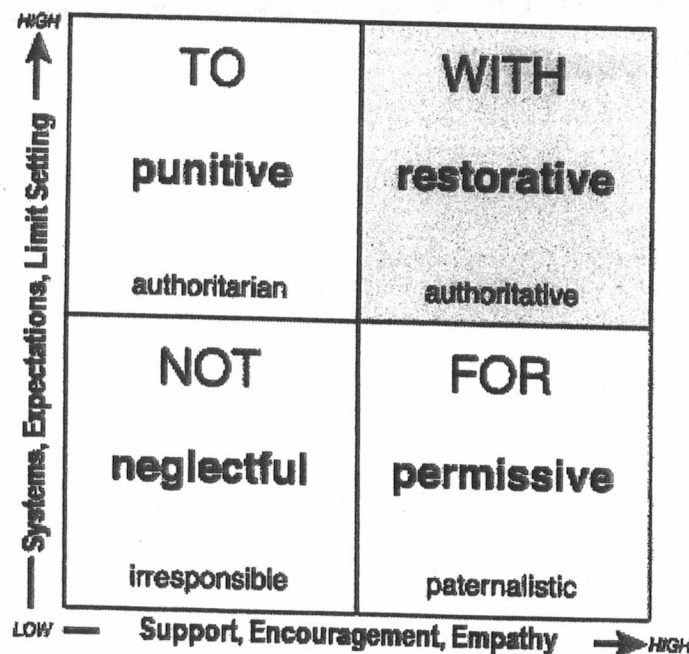


Oakland Unified School District

Restorative Justice in Schools

Bringing Restorative Justice (RJ) to a school is about culture shift; the shift from a punitive, alienating model of discipline to a caring model that encourages accountability and allows for healing. It can be explained by using a three tiered system. The three-tiers of school-based restorative justice are to strengthen community, repair harm, and re-integrate students who have been marginalized due to suspension, truancy, expulsion, or incarceration and are returning to our schools. Much time is spent in the classroom using circles to create community, increase empathy and build solid relationships. RJ provides a framework that encourages an equitable school environment by allowing students to bring their cultural values into the classroom. Through the creation of shared values and guidelines in the classroom, youth feel a sense of belonging and empowerment and are less likely to be disruptive. A caring community and a positive school culture create the foundation for young people and adults to do the hard work of change. Without that foundation, it's difficult for change to firmly take root.

Range of Response



Restorative Questions

When responding to conflict, a restorative approach consists in asking the following key questions :

- 1. What happened, and what were you thinking at the time of the incident?**
- 2. What have you thought about since?**
- 3. Who has been affected by what happened and how?**
- 4. What about this has been the hardest for you?**
- 5. What do you think needs to be done to make things as right as possible?**