

# Restorative Justice Practices Training

## Summer 2023 Course Catalog

### What Are Restorative Justice Practices?

Restorative Justice is a philosophical and practical approach that focuses on the relationships between *all* people who make up a community. In the school context, this includes teachers, students, parents, staff, administrators, the board of education, and community stakeholders. Restorative Justice encompasses an array of practices that, when implemented in a systemic way, create a culture that is more connected, supportive, and accountable. This results in increased academic achievement, improved school engagement, decreased emotional distress and fewer negative behaviors. These findings are supported by research.

New York State Education Department (NYSED) has placed a high priority on a safe and positive school environment where students can experience social and emotional growth that supports academic achievement. Restorative justice practices are well aligned to this mission. Given the many challenges school communities face, from the ongoing impact of the COVID pandemic, to addressing issues like gun violence, mental health, social unrest, and more, providing support and human connection is a necessity for teaching and learning.

### Types of Restorative Trainings:

This summer, NYSED is offering a range of **free** trainings and support to promote and implement restorative justice practices in schools. Detailed information on each training, including registration information and attendance prerequisites, can be found further in this catalog.

#### **Community Building Restorative Circles Training**

Community Building Circles are the foundational practice necessary for building and sustaining restorative practices in a school setting. Participants gain the understanding, skills, and mindset need to facilitate circles in their classrooms and communities. This training serves as an excellent introduction to utilizing restorative process in schools.

#### **Training in Responsive Circles and Conferences to Address Harm**

Intended for those staff and faculty with disciplinary responsibilities, and previously trained in proactive circle keeping, this training focuses on the skills and preparation needed to apply restorative practices to respond to harm and other disciplinary issues at school. Participants will gain the skills and knowledge to conduct processes including harm circles, restorative conferences, and re-entry circles.

#### **Leadership Training for Implementing Restorative Justice Practices**

Designed for school building leadership teams committed to implementing a restorative framework in their schools, this training is for multiple members of a school's administration, staff, and teachers to collectively learn the principles and methods of the work, as well as practical and sustainable approaches for whole school and/or whole district implementation.

# Community Building Restorative Circles Training

## Summer 2023

Community Building Circles are a foundational restorative practice that, using a structured and intentional process, promote trust and relationship building as well as establish a method to host important conversation for students, staff, and faculty. Experience with Community Building Circles provides the necessary basis for successful use of responsive restorative practices, for both facilitators and participants, while simultaneously reducing incidents of harm.

### The Training:

Designed for faculty, school social workers, counselors, psychologists, and other student support staff, this training offers hands-on and skill-focused learning experience. Participants will gain the understanding, skills, and mindset needed to become confident circle keepers in their classroom and wider school communities with students and adults. Participants will learn:

- Basic principles and values of restorative justice and how they relate to restorative circles.
- Design and facilitation practices that promote a sense of community, honest sharing, and deeper listening.

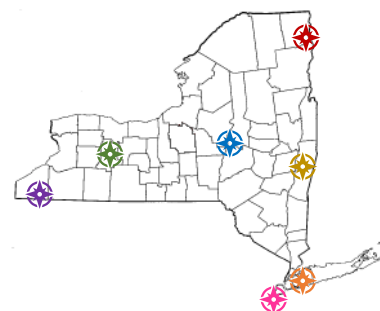
“I had such a wonderful experience and cannot wait to enhance my classroom community with everything I learned here.” – *A participant in one of last year’s training*

### Training Details:

Seven trainings will be held in various regional locations across New York State, [see below for locations and dates](#).

One training will be held online, and participants *must* have access to a reliable internet connection and a laptop/computer that has a working video camera. These highly interactive and engaging trainings require attendees to meaningfully participate in the full training without distraction and with camera on during the duration of the training.

Locations	Dates & Times
Utica, Oneida County	July 19, 20, 21. 8:30am – 3pm
Plattsburgh, Clinton County	July 26 & 27. 8am – 4pm
Hempstead, Nassau County	August 7 & 8. 8am – 5pm
Staten Island, Richmond County	August 7 & 8. 8am – 5pm
Castleton-on-Hudson, Rensselaer County	August 9 & 10. 8am – 4pm
<b>Online version</b> (via Zoom)	August 14, 15, 16, 17. 8am – 12:30pm
Geneseo, Livingston County	August 16 & 17. 8am – 5pm
Jamestown, Cattaraugus County	August 21 & 22. 8am – 5pm



**To Register:** Interested participants should contact their school leadership to inquire about whether this training may be utilized to implement restorative practices in your school. Interested participants must be approved by their principal or superintendent. [Click here to apply.](#)

**Prerequisites:** None.

**Cost:** The trainings are **free** of charge.

**CTLE** will be available to participants who complete the training.

**Questions:** [rjtraining@nycourts.gov](mailto:rjtraining@nycourts.gov)

## Responding to Harm with Restorative Circles and Conferences Training Summer 2023

Responsive Restorative Circles and Conferences are highly structured dialogue processes that hold those responsible for harm accountable for their actions while also providing the support they need to be positive members of the school community. These processes also support those who've been harmed, giving them voice in what happens moving forward, with a focus on what they need to heal. Schools around the country and around the world are utilizing restorative practices to strengthen school climate, respond constructively to conflict and incidents of harm, and reduce reliance on suspensions and other punitive approaches to discipline.

Research shows that Restorative Circles and Conferences help schools:

- Reduce reliance on suspension and other disciplinary practices that negatively impact school attendance, achievement, and engagement.
- Promote social-emotional learning and trauma-informed responses to student behavior.



### The Training:

Designed for staff and faculty involved with student discipline, this intensive training offers hands-on and skill-focused learning experience. Participants will gain the understanding, skills, and mindset needed to become confident responsive circle keepers and conference facilitators in their school communities.

Participants will learn:

- Basic principles and values of restorative justice and how they relate to restorative circles and conferences.
- Understanding the differences between responsive circles, re-entry circles and conferencing, selecting which process to utilize, and preparing students, staff, and faculty to safely participate.
- Responsive circle and conference design and facilitation.

The Trainers are **Cameo Thorne**, Restorative Practices Program Director in New Haven (CT) Public Schools 2016-2023. Previously he was a high school teacher in New Haven for 20 years and selected as the Teacher of the Year in 2009. **Tajaé Gaynor**, Deputy Executive Director of CLUSTER Community Services of Westchester and Rockland

### Training Details:

Counties, who has supported many schools to implement conflict resolution and restorative justice programming.

Two summer trainings are offered, one in-person and one online.

- The **in-person** training takes place August 2,3,4 in Queens, New York, from 8:30am – 5pm.
- The **online** training takes place August 14,15,16,17, via Zoom, from 8:30am – 1pm.
  - Online participants must have access to a reliable internet connection and a laptop/computer that has a working video camera). This highly interactive training require attendees to meaningfully participate without interruption and with camera on during the duration of the training.

**TO REGISTER:** Interested participants must be approved by a principal or superintendent. **Schools are strongly encouraged to send teams of two staff members this training.** [Click here to apply.](#)

**Prerequisites:** Community Building Restorative Circle Training or equivalent Tier 1 training or experience.

**Cost:** The trainings are **free** of charge.

**CTLE** will be available to participants who complete the training.

**Questions:** [rjtraining@nycourts.gov](mailto:rjtraining@nycourts.gov)

## Team Leadership Training for Implementing Restorative Justice Practices Summer 2023

### The Training:

NYSED is offering **free** online restorative leadership trainings designed for **school building leadership teams** committed to implementing a restorative framework in their schools. The highly interactive training sessions will focus on:

- Overview of Restorative Justice: history, principles, and research
- Restorative Justice and its connection to NYSED Social Emotional Learning Benchmarks, Mental Health Education Standards and Culturally Responsive Education Framework
- The stages of systemic implementation including embedding into policy and Codes of Conduct
- Establishing accountability systems including Monthly Discipline Data Reporting and Monitoring
- Methods for holding school leaders accountable for implementation through hiring and evaluation protocols
- Ongoing funding and supports needed to ensure sustainability
- Action planning to support a mindful implementation process that includes key stakeholders

Conducted by **Lori DeCarlo**, former Superintendent at Randolph Academy UFSD in Cattaraugus County, where she implemented a multi-tiered system of restorative practices. She is now a member of the National Training Team for the University of San Diego, Center for Restorative Justice.



### Training Details:

Three **online** trainings will be held. These highly interactive training sessions require meaningful participation for the full training sessions without interruption. The trainings take place over multiple weeks in seven two-hour modules to accommodate school year schedules and includes an individual meeting with Ms. DeCarlo and your school team to review your implementation action plan.

Participants **must** attend all sessions in one of the following cohorts:

Cohort 1: **July 25, 26, 27.** 8:30am – 2:30pm.

Cohort 2: **October 4, 11, 12, 18, 19, 25 & 26.** 8:30 – 10:30am.

Cohort 3: **November 1, 8, 9, 15, 16, 29 & 30.** 8:30 – 10:30am.

**TO APPLY:** Apply to register your school building team to attend by emailing Justin Strock (jstrock@nycourts.gov) the following information, along with a letter of support signed by the School District Superintendent:

- (1) Name of School District.
- (2) School name and grade levels.
- (3) A brief narrative (less than one page) explaining the proposed school building's and school district's efforts in implementing restorative practices in the past.
- (4) Identify your first and second choice cohort dates for the training.
- (5) The names, titles, and email contact information for your school building team (maximum of 8 participants). Teams **must** include the School Principal and **should** include: (a) Assistant Principal or Dean (if applicable); (b) Restorative Justice Coordinator (if applicable); (d) School Social Worker, Counselor, and/or Psychologist; (e) Teachers (one or two); (f) Other interested school or district staff who will be important to your implementation process.

Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis.

**CTLE** will be available to participants who complete the training.

**QUESTIONS:** jstrock@nycourts.gov