

Date: May 13, 2016

For ACTION _____

For Board Brief X

FROM: Sheri James, Coordinator, Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports
Jeffrey Carpenter, Executive Director, Student Services

THROUGH: Julie A. Crawford, Ed.D., Chief Student Services Officer
Alvin L. Crawley, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools

TO: The Honorable Karen Graf, Chair, and Members of the Alexandria City School Board

TOPIC: Restorative Practices

SUMMARY:

In an effort to support the social, emotional and behavioral needs of all students, ACPS schools implement a Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS). This multi-tiered behavioral system of support includes Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) which is a framework that includes consistent schoolwide practices and intervention strategies to encourage positive student behavior and to create and maintain positive learning environments for students and staff. Restorative Practices (RP) are a part of this framework and system of support. Restorative Practices are based on the principles of Restorative Justice that emphasize the importance of positive relationships as central to building community, and involve processes that restore relationships when harm has occurred. In an effort to support the development of a positive community, T.C. Williams High School has been implementing RP at two grade levels and with the International Academy.

BACKGROUND:

During the 2014-2015 school year, ACPS committed to implementation of RP in a phased in approach. Last year began with Minnie Howard and International Academy teachers receiving training on the RP of community circles. Other staff members, including deans, SST and administrators, received additional training in restorative circles to be used for disciplinary interventions (as appropriate) in place of traditional consequences. This year, with the support of the Department of Student Services, Alternative Programs and Equity, T.C. Williams expanded the use of RP to tenth grade English classes. Training for identified teachers and administrators has been ongoing throughout this year.

IMPACT:

At T.C. Williams we are currently in year two of the introduction of restorative practices. This year has included a significant amount of professional learning on these practices. With the addition of 11th grade next year, three grade levels at T.C. Williams and the International Academy will utilize restorative practices as a means of building community and repair harm when behavioral incidents occur. As professional development continues and the practice of using community and restorative circles expands, it is the expectation that students and staff will develop trusting relationships with one another, and that restorative circles will be an additional intervention and alternative to suspension.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Superintendent recommends continued support of the use of restorative practices at T.C. Williams campuses.

.

ATTACHMENT(S): 160513 Restorative Practices Brief v1
160513 Restorative Practices Presentation v1

CONTACTS: Jeffrey Carpenter, 703-619-8036
Sheri James, 703-619-8158