

# Respond to Conflict and Harm in Schools: Utilizing Restorative Circles + Conferences

## What are Restorative Circles and Conferences?

- 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. Restorative Circles and Conferences are highly structured processes that help schools hold students accountable for their actions while also providing students with the support they need to be positive members of the school community.

### Research shows that Restorative Circles and Conferences help:

- Schools reduce reliance on suspension and other out-of-class disciplinary practices that negatively impact school attendance, achievement, and engagement.
- Schools promote social-emotional learning and trauma-informed responses to student behavior

## The Training:

Designed for staff and faculty involved with student discipline, this intensive four-day training offers hands-on and skill-focused learning experience. Participants will gain the understanding, skills, and mindset needed to become confident 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 circles and conferencing, selecting which process to utilize, and preparing students, staff, and faculty to safely participate.
- Circle and conference design and facilitation.

## Training Details and Cost:

Interested participants must be registered by a building Principal or Superintendent. **Schools are strongly encouraged to send teams of two staff members to this training.** Interested participants should contact their school leadership to inquire about whether this training is the right opportunity for their professional development. [Please use this link to register.](#)

LOCATION	DATE\$
Brooklyn, NY	July 30- August 2
Albany, NY	August 13- 16

**Times:** Trainings are scheduled from 9:00 - 5:00 daily.

**Cost:** The trainings are free of charge. Note that meals, lodging, and travel are at the participants' expense.

**Important Prerequisite:** In order to register, participants must have previously attended a restorative circles training focused on facilitating community-building circles or peace circles.

**Questions:** Please direct all questions to Alice Rudnick at arudnick@nycourts.gov