

The *Second Step* Suite and Restorative Practices in Schools



The *Second Step* Suite and restorative practices in schools share the common goals of supporting the safety, well-being, and success of students by developing positive relationships, fostering school connectedness, and building social-emotional competencies. This document outlines the alignment between the two.

Restorative Practices in Schools

Restorative practices are a schoolwide approach to creating a positive school climate that is based on building, maintaining, and restoring relationships in the school community. Restorative practices include restorative justice, an approach to wrongdoing and harmful behavior based on repairing the harm that has been done and restoring relationships. Restorative justice includes the active involvement of all involved in resolving the wrongdoing or conflict and in restoring a sense of community, including students, school staff, and (where appropriate) family members. Being able to demonstrate relationship-building actions and respond to restorative questions is important for all involved in restorative practices. *For more information about restorative practices, see the back page.*

The *Second Step* Suite

The *Second Step* Suite is a research-based, universal prevention program for Early Learning through Grade 8 students. It is designed to promote school success, school connectedness, and a safe, respectful school climate and to prevent problem behaviors. It does this by teaching self-regulation and social-emotional skills and by addressing bullying and unsafe behaviors. It is developmental and sequential, with skills being reviewed and expanded on each year and gradually becoming more complex as students get older. The program provides clear schoolwide norms for prosocial behavior.

Second Step Unit Topics for Student Lessons

<i>Second Step</i> Unit Topics for Student Lessons	
Grade Level	Early Learning
	Skills for Learning; Empathy; Emotion Management; Friendship Skills and Problem Solving; Child Protection*
	K–Grade 3
	Skills for Learning; Empathy; Emotion Management; Problem Solving; Bullying Prevention*; Child Protection*
	Grades 4 & 5
	Empathy and Skills for Learning; Emotion Management; Problem Solving; Bullying Prevention*; Child Protection*
	Grades 6 & 7
	Mindsets and Goals; Values and Friendships; Thoughts, Emotions, and Decisions; Serious Peer Conflicts
	Grades 8
	Mindsets and Goals; Values and Relationships; Thoughts, Emotions, and Decisions; Serious Peer Conflicts

*Units sold separately

SCHOOL STAFF (ALL GRADES)

One of the core components of the *Second Step* Suite is that staff model all program skills, remind students to use them, and notice and reinforce skill use in students with specific verbal feedback. All staff are encouraged to do this whether teaching the actual lessons or not.

FAMILIES (ALL GRADES)

Interactive take-home activities focus on the skills taught at each grade level. These encourage dialogue and engagement between adult family members and students, inform adults about the skills taught in the program, and give students and adults frequent opportunities to practice the skills at home.

Typical Restorative Practices

Relationship-building actions

- Create trust
- Demonstrate empathy
- Be respectful
- Use active listening
- Use affective statements
- Show care and concern

Restorative “structures”

- Community-building circles
- Impromptu conferences to address minor problem behaviors
- Restorative justice circles (repairing harm circles) to address wrongdoing or repair harm, often including family members
- Re-entry circles for students returning from truancy, suspension, or incarceration

Restorative justice principles

- Identifying who has been harmed and how
- Repairing the harm
- Restoring relationships
- Engaging all parties in resolving conflict or addressing wrongdoing

Restorative questions to guide restorative justice process

- What happened from your perspective?
- How were you feeling?
- What were you thinking?
- Who has been affected by what happened and how?
- What needs to be done to make things as right as possible?

Build a caring community that improves learning and life with the *Second Step* Suite.

Learn more at: SecondStep.org