



# Restorative Practices: What Do Families Need to Know?

Maryland House Bill 725, which took effect on July 1, 2019, requires school system discipline regulations to provide for restorative approaches. The bill states that the primary purpose of any disciplinary measure is rehabilitative, restorative, and educational.



HB 725 defines “restorative approaches” as a relationship focused student discipline model that:

- (1) is primarily proactive and preventative;
- (2) emphasizes building strong relationships and setting clear behavioral expectations that contribute to the school community well-being;
- (3) in response to behavior that violates clear behavioral expectations, focuses on accountability for any harm done by the problem behavior; and
- (4) addresses ways to repair the relationships affected by the problem behavior with the voluntary participation of an individual who was harmed.

What are restorative practices? They include:

- ✓ Building positive relationships;
- ✓ Establishing a supportive environment that is fair and consistent; and
- ✓ Creating a sense of belonging, safety, and social responsibility to prevent harm and conflict.

Calvert County Public Schools has been working toward restorative practices for several years prior to the passage of HB 725. CCPS has:

- ✓ Trained staff in social and emotional learning;
- ✓ Hired social workers, school psychologists, and a mental health coordinator; and
- ✓ Implemented Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS), which supports restorative practices, in all schools.

You may hear your child talk about:

- ✓ Circle groups;
- ✓ Affective statements;
- ✓ Conferencing;
- ✓ Restorative questions; and
- ✓ Community building.

***Restorative practices are about changing attitudes, believing in students, and proactively building a positive school culture.***