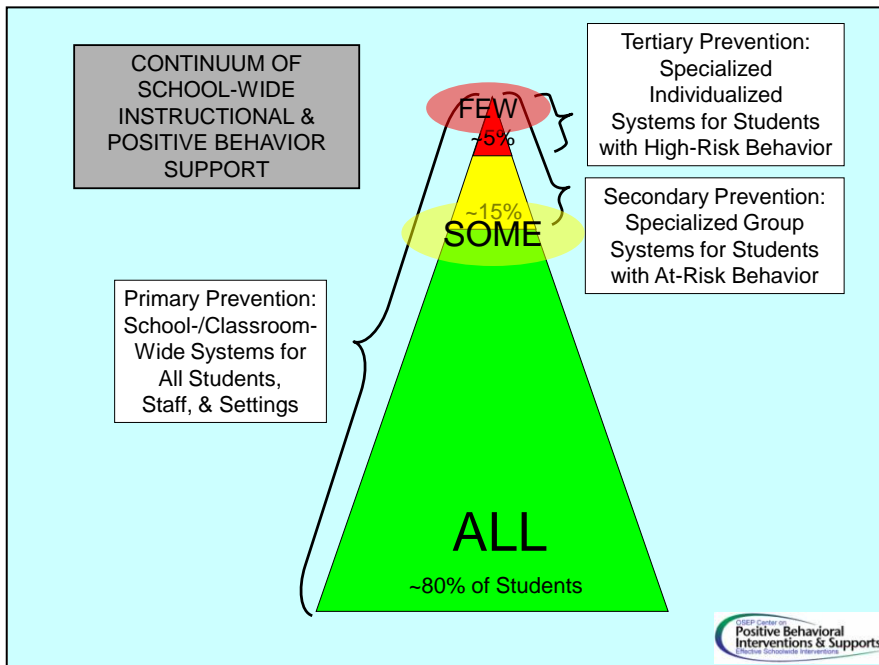


Why Restorative Justice WORKS for bullying behavior.

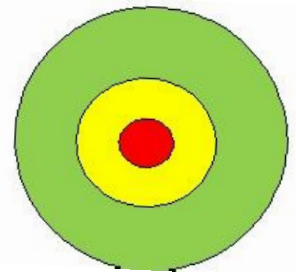
Kris Miner, SCVRJP Executive Director

Restorative Justice Talking Circles can improve school climate and impact bully behaviors. In the triangle below, the **Green** section represents the entire school community. The **Yellow** section represents students that have potential to be the author or the recipient of bullying behavior. The **Red** area represents harm that has already happened, an incident.

Violence prevention efforts must be guided at all areas of the triangle. The green area is **primary** prevention, the **yellow** area secondary and the top red triangle, **tertiary** efforts. The image below from the Office of Special Education Programs, US Department of Education Center on Positive Behavioral Supports demonstrates this explanation.



If you look at the triangle from the top, you see an Olive! In the center of the Circle is the Red portion, surrounded by Yellow, surrounded by Green. This simple change of perspective demonstrates the power of Restorative Justice Circles! Circles involve students from every segment of the triangle. They are treated respectfully, equally and given equal opportunity for equal sharing of their perspectives.



Restorative Justice Circles can place different topics in the Center. Circles build safe communities (green level). Circles also help develop skills in areas of listening and empathy (yellow level). They also give students who are having issues at school or home, a place to share and get support (again, yellow level). Circles can also repair harm (once students & staff are skilled at the process) which is a red level intervention.

Restorative Justice Circles used in schools transform student behavior. In Circle, students develop bonds that prevent violence. Restorative Justice Circle intervention after an incident clears up the issue, rather than just punishing one side.

Kris Miner, is available for facilitation or training on restorative justice. Please contact the St. Croix Valley Restorative Justice Program at 715-425-1100 or scvrjp@gmail.com.

RESOURCES: Taking Restorative Justice to Schools; A Doorway to Discipline by Jeanette Holthum
Restoring Safe School Communities a whole school approach to bullying, violence and alienation by Brenda Morrison

Restorative Circles in Schools Building Community and Enhancing Learning by Bob Costello, Joshua Wachel & Ted Wachtel

The Little Book of Restorative Discipline for Schools by Lorraine Stutzman Amstutz and Judy H. Mullet

JustSchools: A Whole School Approach to Restorative Justice by Belinda Hopkins

www.pbis.org – Positive Behavioral Interventions & Support

www.dpi.state.wi.us/sspw/safeschool.html - WI Department of Public Instruction Safe and Respectful Schools