



**ALIGNMENT CHART:
Restorative Practices in Schools**

Second Step

Second Step 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.

Second Step

Second Step 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

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 6-8	Mindsets & Goals; Values & Friendships; Thoughts, Emotions, & Decisions; Serious Peer Conflicts

*Units sold separately

School Staff (All Grades)

One of the core components of Second Step 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

- Identify who has been harmed and how
- Repair the harm
- Restore relationships
- Engage 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?



Second Step, a program rooted in social-emotional learning (SEL), helps transform schools into supportive, successful learning environments uniquely equipped to encourage children to thrive.

By offering the research-based Second Step SEL curriculum for Preschool through Grade 8 in combination with our Bullying Prevention and Child Protection Units, we've formed an integrated, comprehensive program that makes a difference in children's lives. It's a difference you can feel the moment you open the doors to a Second Step school—a sense of safety and respect grounded in the social-emotional health and well-being of the entire school community.

Learn more at SecondStep.org or call us at 800-634-4449, ext. 1.