

Restorative Practices Paradigm Shift

“What’s fundamental about restorative justice (practices) is a shift away from thinking about laws being broken, who broke the law, and how we punish the people who broke the laws. There’s a shift to: there was harm caused, or there’s disagreement or dispute, there’s conflict, and how do we repair the harm, address the conflict, meet the needs, so that relationships and community can be repaired and restored. It’s a different orientation. It is a shift.”

Cheryl Graves- Community Justice for Youth Institute

Paradigm Shift: relationship based

Traditional Approach	Restorative Approach
<i>School and rules</i> violated	<i>People and relationships</i> violated
Justice focuses on <i>establishing guilt</i>	Justice identifies <i>needs and obligations</i>
Accountability = punishment	Accountability = understanding impact, repairing harm
Justice directed at person who caused harm, person who experienced harm ignored	Person who caused harm, person who experienced harm and school all have direct roles in justice process
Rules and intent outweigh whether outcome is positive/negative	Person who caused harm is responsible for harmful behavior, repairing harm and working toward positive outcomes
No opportunity for remorse or amends	Opportunity given for amends and expression of remorse