



219 North Main Street, Suite 402  
Barre, VT 05641 (p) 802-479-1030 | (f) 802-479-1835

## **Vermont Agency of Education’s Response to “Implementing Restorative Principles and Practices in Vermont Schools: A Meeting Report on the Future Visions, Current Initiatives and Strategic Recommendations of Restorative Practice Trainers and Vested Stakeholders”**

During the 2016 legislative session H.95 was signed into law. The following is found in Section 35 of Act 153;

### AGENCY OF EDUCATION; RESTORATIVE JUSTICE PRACTICES

“The Agency of Education (AOE) shall explore the use of restorative and similar practices regarding school climate and culture, truancy, bullying and harassment, and school discipline. The Agency shall consider the research that demonstrates that restorative approaches lead to reductions in absenteeism, suspensions, and expulsions and to improved educational outcomes.”

Based on this charge, the Agency of Education posted a Request for Proposals (RFP) for an individual or organization to plan and facilitate a one day meeting of Vermonters with expertise in the use of restorative practices in order to learn about current training opportunities and use of them in Vermont schools. The group developed a set of recommendations for how to improve and increase the use of restorative practices. These were included in a report of the meeting prepared by the contractor and submitted to the AOE. The meeting was held on October 13, 2016, and the [Implementing Restorative Principles and Practices in Vermont Schools Report](#) of the meeting was received by the AOE in November 2016.

The following steps reflect those suggestions from the report that the Agency has both the authority within our scope of work, and the resources to support:

1. Using IDEA B funds, we will issue a RFP for the creation of a resource guide for the implementation of restorative practices in Vermont schools. This guide will be made available to Vermont schools and restorative practices trainers. The document will include the following:
  - (a) a definition of restorative practices and summary of potential benefits of using these in schools,
  - (b) research supporting restorative practices as an evidence based practice including effects on schools and students,
  - (c) identification of essential elements for implementation with fidelity
  - (d) identifications of any tools that a school could use to measure fidelity of implementation,
  - (e) an implementation timeline that clarifies milestones in the training, introduction and implementation of restorative practices,

- (f) guidelines on the alignment of restorative practices and a multi-tiered system of supports or other systemic approaches that improve student outcomes and school climate, and
  - (g) a summary of the evidence base for restorative practices that could be used as a basis for requested federal funds to support training for educators
2. The AOE will designate a staff member to attend future meetings of the Vermont Consortium of Restorative Practices Stakeholders and Practitioners.
  3. The AOE will recommend to the contractor of the BEST/MTSS Summer Institute, that they consider selecting a proposal for a restorative practice strand.