

To Be or Not to Be Restorative

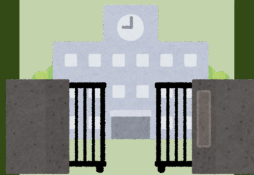


What would a child's life look like in a world with no restorative justice?
Let's follow Jacob's story*

Jacob is an African American boy in 10th grade. He goes to Paper High School.

Jacob has to meet with his probation officer often. He also starts working at a grocery store to help pay for his mom's medicine.

Because of work, Jacob misses many meetings with the probation officer. These absences get Jacob locked up in a detention center.



During the year, Jacob's mom becomes sick. Jacob has to help more around the house.

Before his trial, Jacob is locked up in a detention center.

When he goes to court, he faces two charges: simple assault and destruction of property. He is assigned a probation officer.

One day, Jacob is late to class after helping his mom at home. His teacher blocks him from entering the class and Jacob curses and shoves past. Jacob is charged with simple assault and is suspended.



Since he was suspended, Jacob goes to his friend's house.

They decide to graffiti a neighbor's house. They are arrested for vandalism.

*Jacob is a made up person, but his story is based on real children's stories

What would Jacob's story look like in a world with restorative justice?

Paper High School works with community organizations (like GCC) to train teachers and staff about restorative practices.

When Jacob curses and shoves past, the teacher uses a restorative mindset to stay curious about Jacob's reaction. The teacher sees Jacob's behavior as communication. When Jacob calms down, he and the teacher go to the principal's office to discuss what was going on.

The school administration follows their revised Code of Conduct to handle Jacob's case. Instead of expelling him, they invite him, his teacher and his mom to participate in a restorative circle.

In circle, Jacob talks about why he was late and agrees to a plan to restore the harm.

He apologizes to his teacher. He also meets with the school social worker to talk about his mom's situation and receive support.

Because he wasn't expelled from school, Jacob did not get arrested for vandalism.

Jacob finished and graduated from high school. With no criminal record, he was able to apply and receive college loans. A college education helped him get a job and a living wage.

Let's build a restorative world where every child like Jacob can succeed!

The school social worker connects Jacob's mom with health resources. The social worker, Jacob, and his teachers make a plan together to help Jacob.

Teachers do not punish Jacob for being late to class, but create a plan to help him arrive on time. They also make his homework assignments more flexible.

