



**BALTIMORE**  
**CURRICULUM**  
**PROJECT**

2707 E. Fayette Street  
Baltimore, MD 21224  
baltimorecp.org  
410-675-7000  
Fax: 410-675-7030  
bcpinfo@baltimorecp.org

**In Support: House Bill 202**  
**Restorative Schools Fund and Grants - Establishment**

Chair Kaiser, Vice Chair Washington, and Members of the Ways and Means Committee:

My name is Jon McGill: I am the Academic Director for the Baltimore Curriculum Project. This is my forty-seventh year as an educator, in schools in Canada, the United Kingdom and the United States. I have been a History and English teacher, a school counselor, a middle school Principal, a Head of School in the private school world, and for the past eleven years, Director of Academics at BCP. I have done research in issues related to race and justice, behavior management, conflict resolution and have also served as a teacher trainer for more than thirty years.

Restorative Practices is a process and a program that we have used and developed over the past twelve years in all our schools. We are the most experienced practitioners in Baltimore City. We train new teachers in Restorative Practices and through our relationship with the International Institute for Restorative Practices, in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, we provide in-depth additional training. Here, below,

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are just some of the reasons why we have been so committed to using Restorative Practices:

- Restorative Practices is essentially both a conflict resolution process and a way to create the right kind of climate and culture in our schools. One thing we know for certain is that schools cannot suspend or “discipline” their way to excellence. We need intelligent behavior analysis and mediation, and that is what Restorative Practices provides.
- Restorative Practices provide a way to engage parents, student and the wider community in conversations that are directed toward healing, understanding and collaboration.
- Restorative Practices has been the main program through which we have dramatically reduced our school suspension rates. It pushes us to build relationships with students that allow us to find alternative ways to hold students accountable and provide appropriate consequences when things go wrong.
- Restorative Practices has been instrumental in shifting the ways in which we view adult relationships. It helps us navigate past anger, recrimination and the thirst for mere punishment and develop deeper understandings, better ways of direct communications and greater honesty in establishing the best

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adult climate and culture that will then promote the same context for our students and families.

I support a positive report on this bill. Thank you.

Jon McGill  
Baltimore Curriculum Project  
January 30, 2020

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